

KAYAK

MAGAZINE



February 1980

A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

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EDITORIAL

It is a sobering thought when one considers that less than half the peoples of the world have the freedom to write an editorial for a magazine on any topic they wish. The following thoughts would ensure several years in a labour camp, if ever voiced behind the Iron Curtain.

How happy I am to be a citizen of Britain where the government has left the freedom of choice to competitors to decide whether or not they go to the 1980 Olympics. But my pleasure is tempered by the knowledge that many athletes intend to go. Their decision seems to be based on two very weak arguments. Firstly, the premise that sport should be above politics, and secondly, that the competitors have spent years of intensive training for these games and it would be quite unthinkable that this should go to waste.

Politics and sport should not be mixed, but the precedent to mix the two has been set as much by Russia as any other country, by banning South Africa from major sporting occasions, and in terms of freedom within these two countries there seems little to choose. In any case, do British sports persons regard the invasion of one country by another as just one other aspect of politics?

Many thousands of athletes train hard for many years without ever realising their ambition to compete in the Olympics. But surely they do not regard their training as having been entirely wasted? Moreover, the "wasted" efforts of a few thousand athletes palls into insignificance beside the suffering in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and now Afghanistan.

Unless we do everything within our power to dissuade the Soviet Union from their desire for hegemony, we will see other countries suffer the same fate and will be left with only one last unacceptable alternative - an alternative we have had to face before.

A.M.

ROYAL WEST OF SCOTLAND AMATEUR BOAT CLUB

ISLE OF SKYE TRIP

Saturday 4th August to Sunday 12th August 1979

Robert Todd Junr.

This was the seventh trip on the S.C.A. Touring Calendar, and the third in the annual series of open canoe trips held during the month of August and organised by the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club.

1977's tour took us to the Small Isles, 1978's tour saw a group circumnavigate Mull, and this 1979 tour was a nine day trip round the coastline of the Isle of Skye.

The objective of this particular trip was firstly, to have a pleasant holiday canoeing, (and during the rest days, hill walking), and secondly, if possible to completely circumnavigate the Isle of Skye. Our intentions were to paddle a daily mileage of 20 - 25 miles, and to obtain a general picture of the coastline of Skye, perhaps enabling the selection of the more interesting areas for detailed future exploration.

The route as shown on the map, took us along a rugged, dramatic coastline with limited landing spots which rarely provided a suitable water supply, wood supply or sufficient camping sites to accommodate eight tents.

On Saturday the 4th of August a good start was made to the trip as the weather was cloudy with little sun but no wind. At lunchtime, however, a heavy sea swell created some concern when two Nordkapps and two Anas Acuta were swept from the rock on which they lay. By Saturday evening fourteen canoeists arrived at the first campsite on the northern tip of Skye.

Sunday brought with it a strong South East wind, which took its toll as we turned to head south down the west coast. As the weather denied us the opportunity of pressing on to find a better spot, our party camped on a rather exposed point. For some, Sunday evening turned into a rain lashed, gale driven nightmare. Few of us slept much that night as several tents were blown down and one was completely evacuated by its occupants who sought refuge in the tents of others.

Fortunately Monday was a scheduled rest day in which the weather turned out to be windy but sunny. This gave us a chance to dry out our wet gear (and there was a lot of wet gear!). As conditions over the previous thirty-six hours had been, in the extreme, wild, and as the weather forecast was not very encouraging, three members of the group decided that they would rather paddle in more sheltered waters.

Tuesday turned out to be a calm and overcast day but, with another forecast of bad weather, a decision was made to portage from Loch Greshornish to Ullinish, thus cutting out the exposed coastline between Dunvegan Head and Idrigill Point. The execution of this decision brought us back onto our original "good weather" schedule.

While awaiting, at Loch Greshornish, the arrival of some cars for the portage, a well known R.C.O. from Strathclyde West Region decided to "cool off!" and created a little interest by diving five feet into the muddy bed of the loch to search for one deck hatch which had been accidentally removed from the security of his Nordkapp. After five minutes of searching, a wet and cold Hugh Kerr triumphantly located and retrieved the missing hatch. Later that day at our Ullinish campsite, some early evening sun broke through, enabling everyone, including Hugh, to dry out damp gear, simultaneously drying out dampened spirits.

Wednesday and Thursday turned out to be the highlights of the trip.

On /

On Wednesday, brilliant sunny weather and little wind made for an excellent paddle from Waiy Island to Loch Coruisk. A moderate sea swell was enjoyed as we paddled underneath the towering cliffs and past numerous caves and natural arches. Many streams cascaded down the cliffs and as we approached Loch Brittle we were fortunate enough to sight an eagle on the hills. With such first rate paddling conditions and the excellent company within our large group, sea canoeing attained a level which has to be experienced rather than explained.

Thursday, the second rest day of the trip was a day when everyone did "their own thing". Some members of the group walked along the coastline; some members went hill walking, some members went fishing; some lazed about in the warm sunshine, and someone even portaged their kayak up to the fresh water Loch Coruisk, (50 feet above sea level) in a bid to achieve the first recorded peripheral navigation of the loch (all $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of it). Those who went hill walking in the spectacular Cuillin Hills, behind the campsite were greeted by a superb view over the sea to the Small Isles.

By Thursday evening the problem of the bad weather encountered at the beginning of the trip was replaced by that of midges. Despite this, everyone was in good spirits. Some members of the party partook of varied other spirits during our Thursday evening ceilidh and consequently suffered badly for their indulgence the following day.

The last three days of the trip saw us making good progress. After rounding Point of Sleat we made our way up a relatively calm Sound to camp at Isleornsay where the effect of Spring Tide flooded some tents and caused concern amongst a few paddlers.

Finishing back at Portree Harbour on Sunday the 12th of August, having paddled 27 miles through Kylerhea to the Island of Scalpay, we were finally greeted by a torrential rain storm which was accompanied by force 7 - 8 gusts coming down off the cliff face.

Although we experienced very bad weather near the beginning and end of this trip, we all achieved an "early start" (essential for the success of a long tour with a big party) most paddling days. The latest start being 09.30 hours.

If all S.C.A. trips in the future attract such an enthusiastic combination of paddlers then I'm sure the S.C.A. Touring List will continue to encourage more paddlers to further develop the Sea Canoeing and Touring aspect of the sport.

Thanks to all paddlers:

Gordon Crawford, Iain Crawford, Michael Dougherty, Jen Duncan, Scott Fowler, Alan Hunter, Hugh Kerr, Angus Mathison, Linda Mitchell, Billy Pollock, Cherry Simpson, Charlie Speedie and Peter Wilson.

Robert Todd.
R.W.S.A.B.C.

IF YOU FEEL YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN 1980 SCA TOURS
SEE DETAILS OF ORGANISED TOURS AND MEETS IN THE 1980 TOURING
LIST DISTRIBUTED TO ALL SCA MEMBERS IN THE FEBRUARY MAILING
PACKAGE.

RESULTS IN BRIEF OF THE CLYDE RIVER RACE on SUNDAY 10th FEBRUARY

MEN'S OPEN - David Tuttle, E.U.C.C. beat Andy Morton, FCC, by 13 seconds

DIV C EVENT - 1st I. Bownes, R.W.S.A.B.C.

David Wolfe, FCC was 9th in the Open which was less than 1 min behind the winner.

LADIES OPEN was won by Jane Wilson, Edinburgh University CC

In the C1 EVENT, Jock Young, FCC was beaten into 2nd place by Alistair Munro, FCC.

Letters to the Editor

British Canoe Union
Coaching Scheme,
Flexel House, 45-47 High Street,
Addlestone, Weybridge. KT15 1JV.
31st December, 1979.

Dear Editor,

In the November 1979 edition of your very excellent magazine you published a letter from Mr. J.C. Childs entitled "What is Canoeing Coming to?".

I am sure we all sympathise entirely with Mr. Child's views regarding the increasing amount of paperwork, and the evolution of the Sport.

However, I would contend that evolution is what we are talking about. We are in the latter half of the twentieth century, and canoeing like all other activities is progressing, developing, and in consequence changing. Whilst we have to ensure that the amount of change and information is within reasonable bounds, to attempt to reverse the process would merely cause us to fossilise.

Mr. Child's point regarding standards of assessment is extremely valid. An article is appearing in the next issue of CoDe (the magazine of the Coaching Scheme), and this will be forwarded to anyone interested, on receipt at British Canoe Union Headquarters of a stamped addressed envelope, marked CoDe.

The qualifications and their standards for assessment, have been set, and it has been agreed that they are to be kept as Federal standards. This therefore firmly precludes any Assessors in the British Isles setting their own standards for their own particular locality. Any instance of this should be referred to the Coaching Committee.

Yours etc.

BRITISH CANOE UNION
G.C.GOOD
Director of Coaching.

9, Ash Grove,
Lenzie,
Kirkintilloch,
GLASGOW G66

Dear Editor,

I feel I must reply to the letter in the last issue of KAYAK from Robin Lang criticising the press coverage of the Scottish Slalom Championships. I feel his remark, "It's time that canoeing reports in the press were more precise.....", should have read, "It's time that canoeing reports were in the press." I was quite pleased at the amount of coverage that we received. This amounted to 3 photos and story in the Herald, 2 photos and story in the Record and 1 photo and story in the Greenock Telegraph. In addition every other Scottish newspaper was supplied with results. The Scotsman printed these results in full.

It is unfortunate that the less popular event received most of the publicity. Had he noticed that the stories tallied with the photos, Robin might have realised that this was why the Canadians received the publicity.

Yours etc.

Iain Fleming,
S.C.A. Press Officer.

Letters to the Editor

61, Watson Crescent,
EDINBURGH,
1st December, 1979.

Dear Editor,

I would like to put a couple of ideas on changes that could stop a canoe slalom deteriorating into a pole ducking competition and sideways paddle down a course.

About 8 years ago a group of Scottish paddlers went to a slalom in France (the famous McHannibal Expedition) where they had one pole gates, the direction and side of attack being shown by the colour of pole and number signs non-crossed side. Competitors had to go round these poles cutting out most ducking. If this method was used, slalom would be closer to ski-slalom, requiring less accuracy but more fitness with the emphasis on speed and control of the boat.

Going sideways through reverse gates could be solved by double or sequences of reverse gates during which the boat would not be allowed to be paddled forwards. Alternatively reverse gates could be cut out, as they almost are just now anyway.

I feel Ian Pendleton's idea about going towards no-pole slaloms a la canoe surfing, with high diving type scoring, would mean even less accuracy than our pole gates, loss of a fitness and race type event, and knowing slalomists, stand up fights between judges and competitors when the judges estimation is the sole criteria and there are no concrete times or penalties to go on.

I would also like to comment on the editor's statement that we are third rate competitors in the International scene. I personally feel that although our Scottish teams are not first rate they are not third rate. However realistically, we in Scotland will never have a first rate international team because any paddler who gets to be first rate will immediately become a member of the British Team and unavailable for Scottish Teams, for instance, Jimmy Dolan, Fay Roberts, Jock Young and Alistair Munro. Thus we might have a first rate squad but never a first rate team unless paddlers change their idea that it is better to paddle for Britain than Scotland:

So, while Scotland is secondary in the minds of paddlers to Britain, we will only have a second rate team.

Yours etc.
SCOTT RAMAGE.

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The Scottish Canoe Polo Championships in Edinburgh are now well established as a popular event, and the acquisition of ten new BATs by the S.C.A. last year is appreciated greatly by all competitors since the Forth CC fleet is ageing noticeably.

In the Junior event, the result of having these new craft based in Greenock has given birth to a new and formidable team, 'West of Scotland', who just managed to beat the longer standing but more complacent Forth 'A' by 4 - 3 in the semi finals, while in the other leg Wallace High School had a fairly easy task to reach the final against Forth 'B' whom they beat 4 - 1. Wallace clearly benefit from meeting regularly, and played well as a team in the final to beat the West by 3 - 0, and look all set to be selected as a whole for the Scottish Juniors at Crystal Palace. All will be revealed at the final selection event on Saturday 16th February.

For the Seniors, the seeding had been fairly accurate again this year, although Linlithgow defied the seeders again by fighting all the way through from the first round to the final with convincing wins against Edinburgh University 'B', Selkirk High School, and in the semi-final, just beating top seeds Forth 'A' by 3 - 2. Forth were not really playing as a team, although all the individual paddlers are experienced; they seemed more intent on their individual effort without realising that there is a very limited time in which to get goals, and it needs teamwork to score.

In the other quadrant, Edinburgh University 'A' showed some benefit from attending the East Scotland squad training session last month, beating Dundee University 5 - 2, but going down 2 - 4 to the senior West team. Aberdeen University 'A' had a hard time to contain Forth 'B' to 4 - 3, but were well into their stride in the semi-final against the West and put them down 4 - 1.

In the final, there was some scrappy play from both Linlithgow and Aberdeen; the former were probably tiring after their games right through from the first round, and Aberdeen dominated with the final score at 6 - 3.

The selectors are now left with quite a difficult choice for the senior team to go to London at the end of the month, and will have to try out several combinations at the selection event at Infirmary Street, Edinburgh on Saturday 16th February. It has been pleasing to see the general standard of play higher than last year, and it is expected that with more BATs in use and three centres now organising regular playing sessions, this will continue. But the standard at the top has not really risen this year, and whoever is selected for the Scottish Team will have their work cut out in the League against England, Germany and Holland at Crystal Palace.

Letter to the Editor from David Wolfe, 7, Easter Currie Crescent, Currie, 12.2.80.
Dear Editor,

In the last issue of Kayak, Andy Morton wrote an article concerning grants available for Scottish paddlers to compete in Div A River Races and Div 1 Slaloms south of the Border. This scheme however has a major drawback concerning the River Racing side of things.

This year there are to be no Div B ranking races in Scotland, therefore for those already in Div B aspiring to join Div A, or just determined not to be relegated to Div C, the only choice is a possible lengthy journey to an event in England.

This state of affairs is surely most unsatisfactory and it would seem that the S.C.A. Slalom and White Water Committee have made a major blunder. Let us hope that for next year they negotiate with the B.C.U. Committee and redress the balance by having at least one Div B event in Scotland.

BRITISH NATIONAL CANOE SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

George M. Thomson

Newgate, South Wales on 10th - 11th November 1979.Team Manager.

This was the first year that the British National Canoe Surfing Championships have taken place at Newgate; previously they were held at Bude, and it is now the intention to hold the Competition in a different area each year. This will be in our favour as we will not always have to travel 700 miles, as the competitors from Elgin did, for the Competition. The entry qualifications for the British Championships are that an entrant must have paddled in two events in the last year and be placed in the top 12 in one of these, so the competitors are the top surfers in the Country. This also means that the number of competitors is kept to a more manageable level and that we ought to see more competitors at district competitions trying to qualify.

The Competition started with the surf canoe handling heats and just like last year, the Scottish Paddlers were outclassed and Phil Dean went on to win this event.

In the Slalom canoe handling event we had hoped for better results as this has always been our strongest event. The competition was very strong and Paul Jackson and Robbie Paterson paddled excellently right through to the final gaining 4th and 6th places respectively.

The ladies, Ann Spinks and Jill Paterson took 3rd and 4th places respectively in their event and the juniors returned very good results. Joe Kelly was first in the junior slalom canoe handling with Adrian Fulton 2nd and David Black in 5th place. In the junior surf canoe handling Alistair Cowe took 2nd place and Joe Kelly took 3rd place.

Throughout the weekend the weather and the surf deteriorated from reasonable conditions to a force eight onshore wind with heavy rain. With the wind increasing all the time the surf progressively got worse and indeed so bad that the Slalom canoe handling final was shortened and the surf ski final cancelled.

<u>Team Members</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Event</u>
Bob Hawkes	J.S.M.F.C.	Open Surf Canoe
Andy Davey	R.A.F.	Open Surf Canoe
Robert Strachan	Elgin C.C.	Open Surf Canoe
Paul Jackson	Inverurie S.K.C.	Open Slalom event
Robert Paterson	Inverurie S.K.C.	Open Slalom event
Neil Spinks	Aberdeen Kayak Club	Open Slalom event
Ann Spinks	Aberdeen Kayak Club	Ladies Slalom Canoe
Jill Paterson	Inverurie S.K.C.	Ladies Slalom Canoe
Joe Kelly	Linlithgow Outdoor Centre C.C.	Junior Slalom Canoe Junior Surf Canoe
Alistair Cowe	Keith Grammar School C.C.	Junior Surf Canoe
Adrian Fulton	Keith Grammar School C.C.	Junior Slalom Canoe
David Black	Keith Grammar School C.C.	Junior Slalom Canoe

RESULTS

Open Slalom canoe handling	4th	Paul Jackson
	6th	Robert Paterson
Ladies Slalom canoe handling	3rd	Ann Spinks
	4th	Jill Paterson
Junior Slalom canoe handling	1st	Joe Kelly
	2nd	Adrian Fulton
	5th	David Black
Junior Surf Canoe handling	2nd	Alistair Cowe
	3rd	Joe Kelly

Coaching tests and awards must conform to a nationally agreed norm. This seems to be generally agreed. A proficiency test is a proficiency test, and the pass level should be the same whoever examines for it, and wherever it is taken. Similarly for Coaching Awards.

This is obviously the ideal. In reality there will be some variation due to the fact that we are human beings and all different. However, if "fairness" and "standards" are important factors, these variations must be kept to acceptable levels.

Deliberate upgrading or downgrading must be avoided. If examiners in a certain area say: "This area has dangerous water, therefore this test must reflect that situation," it must follow that others could say, "This area has only duck ponds, therefore the test need not be very difficult". Immediately, we have considerable regional variations occurring to a NATIONALLY AGREED standard. Further, if an Authority is using a particular test as an enabling qualification, they have done so because they believe the test as it is written is adequate for their situation. The system is destroyed once examiners say: "Ah, these people are going to use this test in order to be in charge of young people - therefore we will test with that in mind."

Due to these attitudes, the standard continues to rise, and increasing frustration is felt by those keen to promote canoeing activities, but who find that the means to operate at a basic level is continually being moved out of their reach. So please, examiners, try to maintain an objective view. Read the nationally agreed syllabus, and the nationally agreed definitions, and test to the nationally agreed standard.

If you believe that standard to be wrong, the correct recourse is to bring the matter to the attention of the Moderating Forum at the National Coaching Conference. The problem can be aired and any agreement of change in emphasis notified to all concerned. But if you decide on a local or regional basis, to interpret the syllabus or the rules to suit your local conditions, or local ideas, on equipment or methods, then any attempt to achieve standardisation of pass levels has been sabotaged, and we may as well cease trying to provide a federal, or even a national, system.

The criterion for Senior Instructor (Inland) is Grade I / II - reasonably competent on the Lower Wye in normal summer conditions, for instance. Complete beginners shoot these rapids, often with "unqualified" incompetent leadership - and survive! If a newly qualified, minimally experienced Senior Instructor operates on conditions in excess of this standard, then he or she is working outside the terms of reference. It is the responsibility of Trainers and Assessors to make this clear, and then leave it to the candidate. The alternative, taken to its logical conclusion, is to insist on maximum performance for even the most basic award.

To lead on Grade III, for instance, a Senior Instructor needs the Advanced Test, or relevant experience. But if we say, "Well, this newly qualified SI might go on to Grade III," and start assessing along those lines, he might go on to Grade IV or V, or VI! So where do we stop? We should stop where we have agreed to - at proficiency level - a simple 2mph current.

For the sea, this implies a simple section of coastline, not involving overfalls, tidal races, difficult landings, or open crossings. It must be on "open water" - where it is POSSIBLE to be three miles from land in any direction - but it is not NECESSARY to be so. Moderate summer conditions - winds not in excess of Force 4.

Has any Senior Instructor really ever been in trouble working within these parameters with equipment to normally accepted standards?

(A response to the letter from Mr. J.C. Childs published in the Nov. '79 issue)

I have considerable sympathy for the sentiments expressed by my fellow North-East Outdoorsman, as I too embarked on outdoor activities quite some time ago; but my introduction to the outdoors was as a rockclimber in the Lake District, and that was thirty five years ago! and it too was spontaneous, part-time and fun, with hob-nails, the equivalent of a clothes rope, when even karabiners were beyond the pale, but I would not dare suggest to anyone that that should still be the way of things. Canoeing, like rockclimbing, as so many other worthwhile and engrossing pursuits, has developed to lengths never dreamed of at that time. There is, however, nothing to prevent me from doing my own thing on the rocks, climbing in clinkers if I could find some, or paddling a folding canoe (which I still do from time to time), but it must be admitted surely, I would be failing in my duty to young people if I were to present the activity only in those terms to them in the prevailing situation. Whatever my feelings on the matter I must in all conscience present the activity to its neophytes, particularly if they are schoolchildren under my 'educational charge', as an activity tuned in to their expectations of sport and recreation in their time which is now and tomorrow - not our yesterdays.

Surely, it is not just a problem of standards that apply to the development of skills, for not only is the expected correct performance of a skill subject to inevitable change, but the skills themselves change. From the recreational days of canoeing seventeen years ago the telemark high or low is just no longer appropriate, there are better ways of doing things now, just as vibrams and terrodactyls brought in different techniques to that needed for rockclimbing and snow work. Cutting steps with an ice-axe is now virtually old hat, but snow and ice are now climbed safer and faster with new techniques and new technology. So isn't it inevitable that present day coaching sessions and the training of canoe instructors should be involved with the techniques of sport which are relevant to the youngsters and their setting, and their potential field of participation. I would suggest, therefore, that some experience and knowledge in the modern demands of slalom, how to paddle a K craft or white water racer and how to make effective use of invaluable (and expensive) pool time in teaching people to roll is highly appropriate for Senior Instructors in 1979/80.

I have used the example of rockclimbing to indicate the inevitable changes in standards and techniques, but one can see instances in virtually every outdoor activity. Changes happen because the participants innovate them - not the organisers, the administrators or the examiners of assessment courses. Changes in slalom boats, skis, tennis racquets, climbing equipment, even running tracks, all happen in spite of the sports legislators who every few years make an attempt to get up to date - an inevitable and irreversible process. All concerned people can do is to recognise that things do not stand still, particularly when dealing with the drive and enthusiasm of young people in sport. Even such high powered organisations as the Canoe Coaching Scheme only serve to trigger off the processes by which young people become involved, and we delude ourselves if we assume that our "pearls of wisdom" are anything more than "ships that pass in the night".

I hope, therefore, that the Coaching Scheme has enough built-in flexibility to accommodate changes in techniques and even fashions, and to recognise those changes in standards which go on in spite of the Coaching Scheme. Having said that there obviously would be a case against any assessment team who sought to impose too high a standard on the examinee, and a very valid complaint could be made in those circumstances. But to my knowledge no complaint has ever been made, and thus one is left to assume that the changes even in the North-East of Scotland - the evolution of coaching awards is taking place with the approval of all concerned. But they are only changes in the approach to canoeing as I have indicated - certainly not in the way it has been suggested.

Turning to the second theme in the paper, I wonder what is so distasteful about an Association of any sport in Scotland in seeking a clear cut /

cut identity as distinct from a U.K. body. Admittedly, we do have links with sports and their competition framework South of the Border, but the distinction is Scottish not Scotland North of the Southern Uplands, or the North of the U.K., but Scottish, pertaining to Scotland. I notice that even the English want to run their own affairs - recently an English Ski Council has been formed to match the Ski Councils of Scotland and Wales. Why not indeed! The involvement of canoeists in the S.C.A. over the last ten years has progressed towards that distinctive place of running their own canoeing affairs. The move towards autonomy did not go as far as I would have liked, - but the membership took the decision and I now accept having to work within that democratic decision of the S.C.A. (whether the debate within the B.C.U. was democratic is quite another matter!). So, therefore, the decisions that are made are ours; we are part of the Association and are thus party to the decisions. If we don't like them, then work for change, all the processes to achieve change are there, it just needs patience. We have entered into agreements to maintain uniformity in the Coaching Scheme and in the avenues available for competitive opportunity. But that does not mean that we surrender our right to adapt and interpret the rules and regulations of Coaching and competition in the light of our local requirements. The rules of B.C.U. Slalom Committee are adapted for our local purposes of encouraging competition and participation, because some rules are formed for English needs to limit participation. So too with Coaching Scheme guidelines, they must be adaptable between courses on the Suffolk Ouse, the Welsh Dee or the Findhorn, and between the varying demands of the local paddlers. The idea that Colin Gray on the Trent and Jim Gilchrist on the Findhorn should run identical courses takes us literally into farce. Even the demands of a Sea Course would need different approaches between Calshot Spit, Stonehaven Bay, Inverclyde or the Summer Isles.

What has paddling on the Severn or the Spey to do with being British? It matters little surely in paddling into the nooks and crannies of these islands what nationality one has, or adopts, except possibly in some pride in belonging, but surely that is a very narrow approach to exploration by whatever means. We naturally encourage some local pride in our own, but not a narrow exclusivism which runs down other countries, other mountains, other rivers, seas, forests, which we have in education and in adventure pursuits encouraged the young to explore and to discover the fascination of all places both the wild and remote, and those aspects of life on earth different from our own. I would suggest, therefore, that the Coaching Scheme has got nothing whatsoever to do with being British. It is simply part of an association - a gathering together of canoeists to promote the development of canoeing as a sport and a recreation and if we as an Association or Union decided to organise it in a framework of local 'cells' with a coaching commissar, then that is how it would be. Decisions taken by our collective discussions and debates leading towards a particular framework within the organisation. We are all party to the decision, that's what being in an Association is about, not only those involved in the competitions of canoeing, but also those in Coaching and all other branches of the organisation which makes up the British Canoe Union and its constituent parts which includes the S.C.A. As they say in other parts 'you can't have the benefits without the obligations'. A Coaching Award is not a degree or a Certificate in Education, it is a recognition of one's participation in the ongoing processes of canoeing inside the National organisation of the sport - but British or Scottish is irrelevant, it is being in and being involved, and being part of the decision making processes that is important.

My main points therefore, in conclusion, are that if the Coaching Scheme is to be held in any value at all then it must keep in touch and relate to the activity that is actually taking place in Canoeing - in short it must be relevant or it will be ignored. Decisions taken affecting the organisation of canoeing, are taken by those who are concerned and willing to put in the time and effort to reach those decisions and are prepared to accept the outcome of democratic processes, and that's what being in an Association means - nothing else.

AFTERMATH OF A SCOTTISH SLALOM TRAINING WEEKEND - BENMORE - JANUARY 1980.

A personal view:

David Cuthill

The Scottish Slalom/WW Committee is reflecting a general move towards a much more professional attitude by the organisation to canoe/kayak sport. This is a result of the rewriting of our agreement with the B.C.U. and increased continuity between official meetings (e.g. single centre for council meetings in Stirling). The S.C.A. officials probably spend as much time on S.C.A. business as some members of the training squad spend canoeing!

A large proportion of the grant aid to the S.C.A. goes on competition tours, the biggest of these being the slalom/WW tour. Even in these times of national recession there seems to be plenty of money available in grant-aid: competitors claim travel expenses subsidies - coaches are paid fees. The Scottish Slalom Training Squad members are continually being reminded at monthly training weekends about how pampered they are and how much money is being spent on them.

I feel that the infrastructure is developing and self perpetuating independently from the competitors who are not responding to treatment and do not seem to be improving in proportion to the resources spent upon them. This is a comment on all the Scottish teams, not just the slalom team.

The last slalom training weekend at Benmore coincided with a slalom/WW Committee meeting and probably marks a turning point in the fortunes of the present squad members. Here are some comments:-

1. There tends to be far too much "carrying on" both on and off the water. This will have to be controlled and the slalom/WW committee has taken the rare step of suspending two squad members.
example: it was intended to grace the front page of this month's KAYAK with a group photograph of the squad - but none of the photos taken were printable because the skylarking couldn't stop even for the 1/250th of a second required to take a decent picture. This is a symptom of 2 (below).
2. I think the squad is too easy to get into and therefore too large, and this means less time on the water for everyone. Squad members spend about as much time playing table tennis or sitting waiting as they spend on the water. The squad is larger than it was in the mid 70's but contains less top end quality than it did then. It would be hard to pick more than one senior slalom team of any quality as the experienced guys drift away. The "old" seniors have always been "written off" anyway as they obviously improve less for a given coaching effort, and the "new" seniors have yet to prove themselves.
3. Following on from 2 a large squad is difficult to organise at a training weekend so that everyone gets maximum time on the water. A lot of time is wasted before and after midday meals and sometimes the meals are unsuitable for a training day. Hard training before and after a couple of hamburger rolls, tea scones etc. is sheer agony! Most slalom competitors don't eat at midday for this very reason and usually leave at least 1 hour after eating anything before their event. Brunch is a much better solution probably about 11 a.m. and would save about 3 hours at peak time in a short winter day.
4. On the Saturday evening Neil Spinks and Irvine Ross in their now familiar lectures, exhorted our budding champions of the 80's to greater efforts; but the talking points of the evening followed Jock Young's subsequent lecture summing up from a refreshingly new angle a lot of what I have believed for a long time e.g.:- a slalom competitor ought to have sufficient natural ability to get into Div one fairly quickly without much training so that he can then build upon this by hard training. The same applies to "Big water Confidence" because if you are scared of the water it doesn't matter how much fitness training you've done before an international - some wild club paddler could beat you simply by survival if you can't stay in your boat. Jock stressed event preparation and care of equipment which can also cost you your training investment /

investment if not done properly; giving advice, no doubt learn't the hard way on what can go wrong at a big event - all good stuff.

5. The new Ranking List (see below) slams home the poverty of slalom in Scotland - There is more strength in WW racing at the moment although they're so disorganised I don't think they've realised the fact yet. The only hope is the large number of Div 2 (really Div 3 nowadays) may produce some class.

6. What I think should be done

I believe that there is confusion and a degree of role conflict (no, I don't mean a 20 minute run after lunch at Benmore) bothering some of the squad members and the slalom committee's brains at the moment.

Perfectionism is to be encouraged and I've heard it said "I'd rather be 10th and know I'd done the best run of my life than come 1st when I know I'd made errors." This is all very well but the system as we have it presented demands results and that means MEDALS not private ego trips. If we adopt a purely systems approach it can be seen that the Scottish teams should be orientated to competing for realistic rewards: Work out where we can do well i.e. get placings - examples of this are - club events at home and in France and Spain for juniors. For the seniors, forget the international individual events and train towards team events in Div C internationals. Speed is less critical, steady clear runs can win. Youths; the team managers realise that the youths are not only where we can do best individually but are also the basis of future senior teams. By definition Scottish Senior team consists mostly of ex youth team members who didn't make it - if they had, they'd be British team seniors. Taking the logical extension of a previous point: if you don't make the British Youth team standard i.e. get into Premier before you are 18 at the latest, you just possibly aint gonna make it to be British/World Champ. - your ceiling is already within sight - is it worth dedicating your life to this aim?

I believe that the Scottish Slalom Training Squad should be limited to premier division paddlers (first division for youths and ladies) and that more resources should be spent on local coaching centres each going on its own self financed tours of the lower category events on the continent. Scotland should also concentrate on filling the Canadian class vacuum which exists at the moment. Home internationals should be prominently featured in the team calendar; last year's visits verged on the impromptu.

To end then - spot that opportunity and get in there and capitalize on it;

Club paddlers get on and plan that French/Italian/Spanish summer trip, grab some medals and get Scotland some good publicity;

Squad paddlers - you've got one month to prepare for Grandtully and show that you deserve your place;

Youth team paddlers in particular - now's your chance.....
It's tough to get to the top but it's even tougher when you're a senior....
Cheerio.

SCOTTISH SLALOM RANKINGS (extracted from Year Book)

Ladies Div 1. Kath McLeod. Nonie Coulthard. Lynda Morrison.

Premier K1 Neil Baxter

Div 1. K1 Jock Young, Dave Cuthill, George Robertson, Alan Eastwood, Eric Milne, Iain Macdonald, Alistair Bell, Tim Liddon, Grant Mowat, Collin Pattinson, Graham Tough, Graham Gill.

Div 2. Dave Shearer, Stephen Willing, Derek Marshall, Alan Ashby, Irvine Ross, Douglas Buick, Gordon Anderson, Scott Rasmusen, P. Rawlings, Martin Shearer, Neil Spinks, John Penman, Alan Harley, David Paton, Bruce Scott, Ian Duncan, Niall Andrews, Alistair Denny, Robin Duncan, Scott Ramage, Jamie Trotter, Willie Wilson, Gareth Davies, Thomas Prentice, James Linning, James Russel, Russell Jordan, Stephen Harris, Les Berrow, Craig Douglas, John Hall, David Bean.

C2 Div 1 Hamilton/McMorrin C2 Div 2 Young/Munro. Cuthill/Brown.

When Robin Lang left for Canada recently Scotland lost its only current top class white-water racer, and this prompted me to look at the current status of Scottish white water racing. This winter there have been only 8 - 10 active senior competitors, and the situation in other classes has been even poorer.

The situation can be summarized by saying that we have no potential British Team members, a small number of competent active competitors, and no up and coming younger paddlers.

So what is to be done to improve this situation? Some action must be taken at various coaching levels if we are to have any top class competitors in the future.

The WW/Committee has two main possible lines of approach, either to see its responsibility purely with top level competitors, or to see it in the wider context of the whole future of Scottish river racing, or indicated by the present crisis.

An interesting comparison can be made with the Sprint/LD situation which was suffering from a similar recession in previous years. By holding open coaching/training sessions Drew Samuel is making a lot of progress with younger paddlers; his plans are long term and all signs are that he should be reaping the rewards of his work in the next few years.

Could a similar approach be what is required for white water racing? Personally I don't think that the answer is a simple "yes". There are aspects of white water racing that make it more complex. The most obvious illustration of this being that not only are pure racing skills required, but also white water skills. It is for this reason that the solution lies at a club level, where paddlers who show ability in flat water racing, or white water technique, should be given encouragement and a chance to try river racing.

Once paddlers with the right types of skills start trying the sport then the coaching scheme can take them on as has happened in Sprint/LD. Apart from all these points there is a more basic snag, nearly all white water canoeing in Scotland is slalom orientated, and paddlers who might be very good river racers are drawn into slalom initially and never try river racing.

It is strange to compare our current malaise with the English situation where white water racing is really starting to take off at club level. At the second Dee race in December for example, there were nearly 150 competitors, and the general standard was much higher than in previous years, and that was only a Div B event. In Scotland this year we have no Div B white water races, all being Div C except Grandtully. No wonder our young competitive paddlers turn to slalom; with that sort of incentive for aspiring white water racers.

In conclusion I feel the responsibility for improving this situation is in both the WW/Committee's and the Club's hands. The WW Committee to initiate incentive for people to river race by ensuring Scotland gets its fair share of Div B races; the clubs to get involvement with white water racing, and finally the WW/Committee to start a low level competition coaching scheme open to everyone who wants to come, so that club paddlers start to take an active part in this side of our sport.

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PLEASE MENTION THE NAME "KAYAK MAGAZINE"
IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUR ADVERTISERS

COMMODORE'S COMMENT

Are canoeists becoming considerably more affluent than they were a decade ago? Or are they more generous about lending some very expensive equipment to anyone who cares to pick it up? I am becoming more and more amazed at the life-jackets, spray-decks, paddles and even canoes which are un-named and left behind at events. Quite apart from making it very difficult for conscientious organisers to return abandoned kit to you, it is surely only prudent to have some sort of identification on your life-jacket in case of incident, and to have your paddles named in case they are found in the event of being swept out of your hands, so that you may stand a chance of getting them back.

At organised pool events, I am now taking the attitude that while any piece of gear with a name on it requires the owner's permission to borrow, anything with no name on it has been kindly provided for free use by anybody without permission, and that the anonymous donor is also prepared to take the risk of having his gear damaged without any comeback on the borrower.

_ / _ / _ / _ / _ /

The S.C.A. Council is still debating whether to assist financially an expedition to the Maelstrom off Norway this summer. It has already agreed to patronise the advanced tour, but my own doubts about any financial commitment seem to have been joined by a number of other voices after a recent television clip showing the participants falling out of their canoes on a fairly minor piece of white water.

Whatever the outcome of the debate in the next Council meeting, where a decision must be made, I wish the four paddlers well and hope they do not have such an embarrassing incident or worse on their expedition.

_ / _ / _ / _ / _ /

It is curious that while there are at least three excellent regular Annual Gastronomic and Social events organised by individual clubs during the year, nobody seems to summon up much enthusiasm for what should be the debutante's sine-qua-non of the calendar, the binge-to-beat-all-binges associated with the S.C.A. annual general meeting. The last overwhelmingly successful one was a dinner followed by a disco organised by Graham Smith in Edinburgh, and response to further efforts has slid back until last December's event at Aberdeen had to be cancelled for lack of support.

I hope that this year's event in the Borders will be well attended, and have already made my resolution to back the organisers by collecting a couple of tickets as soon as they are issued. Perhaps they need a little guidance as to what you would like to have as a social get-together. Why not drop a line to Alisdair Torrance at Selkirk High School. See you there in December.

_ / _ / _ / _ / _ /

A 1980 New Year Resolution for all competitors (highly recommended)
 "I SHALL SEND IN MY ENTRY TO COMPETITIONS NOT LATER THAN 12 DAYS BEFORE THE
 EVENT"

(To be repeated to yourself at frequent intervals during the season)

We have included English Div. 2 slalom events for the benefit of the 30 or so Scottish Div. 2 slalomists who have a responsibility to qualify for Div. 1 during the coming season.

MARCH

- 2 Nith WW Race - C - Open (R.W.S.A.B.C.)
 1-2 Shepperton Lock - 2 - Surrey - (Shepperton CC)
-
- 8-9 Slalom & WW Squad Training weekend (S.C.A.)
 9 Sprint & Marathon Training (S.C.A.)
-
- 15-16 Appletreewick 2 - Bolton Abbey, Yorks. (Leeds CC)
 15-16 Upper Wye WWR B C (Bristol CC)
 16 Grandtully WW Race - A, Open Scottish Champs (Postal Entries Only)
 (Forth CC)
-
- 22-23 N.Tyne WW Race. B C (Gateshead)
 22-23 Fairmilee - 2, 3, J. (Edinburgh University CC)
-
- 29-30 Scottish Canoe Exhibition - Meadowbank, Edinburgh.
 29-30 Hambledon Weir - 2 - Marlow, Oxford - (Chalfont Pk CC)
 29-30 Trewerwyn WW Race A (Chester CC)

APRIL

- 5-6 Grandtully : Premier - 1 - J - (SCA - J.McPherson)
 6 FCC Tweed Trip & Barbecue - meet at Fairmilee
 6 Sprint - Marathon Training
-
- 12-13 Slalom - WW Training - R. Awe
 12-13 Comrie - 4, N, J. (Perth CC)
 12-13 Symonds Yat - 2 - Monmouth (Gloucester CC)
 12 Canal/Kelvin Marathon (Glasgow KC)
-
- 19 Loch Awe Marathon (Glasgow University CC)
 20 River Awe WW Race - C - Open (Scottish Universities Champs)
 (Glasgow University CC)
- 19-20 N.E. Surf Championships - Sandend (Aberdeen KC)
 19-20 Bala Mill - 1 - Bala, North Wales (Midland CC)
-
- 26-27 Netherton Bridge - 2, 3, J. (Dundee WWC)
 27 FCC Surfing & Barbecue at Seacliffe

MAY

- 3-4 Teith 4 - N - J (Heriot-Watt University CC)
 4 Tweed Marathon (Forth CC)
-
- 10 Loch Lomond Marathon (Evening Start) British Selection
 (Strathclyde University CC)
 11 Scottish Sprint Champs - Strathclyde Park - Scottish University
 Championships (S.C.A.)
- 10-11 Old Windsor Weir 2 - 0 (Windsor CC)
-
- 17 Forth & Clyde Canal Regatta - Falkirk (S.C.A.)
 18 Forth & Clyde Canal Marathon (S.C.A.)
-
- 24-25 East Surf Championships - North Berwick (Linlithgow Outdoor C.)
-
- 31 Mini Regatta - Kirkintilloch - (Strathkelvin CC)
 31-1 June Leny Slalom N J (Dundee WWC)
 31-1 " Trywerwyn 1 Bala, N.Wales (Chester CC)
 June 1 Cumbrae L.D. (Paisley K.C.)

N.B. ENTRIES TO THE ABOVE MUST BE IN NOT LATER THAN 12 DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT

GRANDTULLY WHITE WATER RACESCOTTISH DOWN RIVER RACING KAYAK/CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1980 (BCU Ranking A)FORTH CANOE CLUB16th MARCH 1980GRANDTULLY

Start: 12 noon

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 must not be parked at the Lagg parking point. **PRESTART AT LEAST 30 mins. BEFORE YOUR START TIME.**

ENTRIES: To D. Cuthill, 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue, Edinburgh EH10 5ED.

FEES: As W.W.R. Yearbook. These should arrive no later than TUESDAY 4th MARCH for compilation of the Start List which will be sent to those sending stamped addressed envelopes. No late entries can be considered and you should send your BCU/SCA card or a photocopy with your entry.

SAFETY: Competitors must abide by the BCU/SCA 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 yard at Grandtully. They must not leave any litter.

TEAM EVENT: A team race will be run from Aberfeldy to Grandtully starting at Aberfeldy Bridge at 3 p.m.

<u>MEDALS</u>	SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY	1 - 2 - 3 Senior K1
		1 - 2 Youth K1 (under 18 on 1.1.80)
		1 Ladies
		1 Youth Ladies (under 18 on 1.1.80)
		1 Team 1 C1 and 1 C2
<u>PRIZES:</u>	<u>SENIOR</u> K1 1st 2nd and 3rd (Men)	C1 1st C2 1st
	K1 Women 1st 2nd	
	<u>YOUTH</u> Men 1st 2nd	<u>JUNIOR</u> Men 1st
	Women 1st 2nd	Women 1st

Others depending on entry. **ENQUIRIES :** To D. Cuthill - phone 0475 33251 Day
0475 36487 Evening

TWEED MARATHONFORTH CANOE CLUB CHALLENGE TROPHY SUNDAY, 4th MAY 1980

The race will be run over the same course as in previous years and will be a ranking event for the SCA Marathon Club Trophy and SCA Singles LD Trophy.

DIV I and II 16 miles. Walkerburn (A72 Peebles-Galashiels Road)
and K2 COURSE to Gattonside (Suspension Bridge at Melrose)
Be at Walkerburn at 11.30 a.m. for 1200 hrs mass start.

JUNIORS AND 8 miles. Fairnilee to Gattonside
LADIES (DIV III IV V) Be at Fairnilee at 1 p.m. for 1.30 p.m. start.

SAFETY The event will be run to current SCA LD Racing Rules. 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.

FEES Senior, £1. Senior Touring/Slalom--80p. Youth--80p Junior--50p.

ENTRIES will be taken at the start up to 30 mins before the "off".

All classes of canoe may be entered. 3 entries constitute a class and therefore a prize awarded. There will be prizes for Div I, II, III and IV, Youth and Juvenile slalom, Touring, Veteran. Others if numbers warrant. All canoeists compete at their own risk. FCC do not accept responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by a competitor.

KRAKATOA MOULDINGS

Krakatoa Mouldings was formed at the beginning of 1976 to offer a specialist service to the slalom and white water canoeist. We aim to produce or stock the best slalom canoes and accessories available anywhere in the world. All our designs are available in a variety of kit and finished forms and are produced from the very best of materials currently available. This, together with our unique "options system" gives you the choice you need to suit your pocket, from glass for economy to kevlar/carbon/vinyl constructions for the ultimate in strength and lightness.

ELEKTRA '81 A brand new slalom kayak designed for the 1981 World Championships on the River Trewerwyn. The ELEKTRA '81 is primarily designed to be a very fast boat in a straight line with a very low, sneaky deck shape, making maximum use of the new 10 cm pole height regulations. This boat is at its best on water of under grade 4 and for paddlers of up to 12 stone in weight. The seat unit has been designed to give a really efficient, comfortable seating position for paddlers of all sizes. A great deal of interest has already been shown in this boat by members of the British Team and we expect this design to prove a real winner in all but the biggest of waters.

ELECTRA ALPINE With the Elektra '81 built for pure speed on flatter courses we felt there was a need for an extra slalom kayak designed to handle really well on big water courses. So we built the Elektra Alpine. This boat is more stable than the '81, turns faster and has more buoyancy but is not as fast in a straight line. It is more suitable for heavier paddlers - up to 14 stone in weight.

SWITCH C1 Krakatoa have now launched themselves into the world of slalom C1. The switch is a low volume boat designed with a stable hull shape and a fast turning speed while managing to give the hull a high degree of directional stability.

ATOMIC A well proven expedition, rough water, general purpose and surf kayak. If you are looking for a versatile kayak then this has got to be the boat for you. Used extensively by Youth Clubs, Education Authorities and the Armed Forces, the Atomic is available in a variety of rugged constructions over a large price range.

PRICE LIST 1980 (incl. VAT)

Shell Form	£110		
Kit Form	£120		
Unfinished Form	£130		
Finished	£145		
		<u>Optional Extras</u>	
		Diolen Hull	£12
		Kevlar Hull	£35
		Kevlar Deck	£30
		Vinyl Resin	£8.
		Carbon Bands	£8.
		Kevlar Patches	£4

Colours: Glitter Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Mauve, Silver.

Weights: from 24 lbs in glass, 20 lbs in Diolen, 16 lbs in Kevlar.

Also Scottish Agent for Freeblades:

Quality Slalom paddles from £22.50, WWR/Sprint £27

Supplier of Harishok accessories....

Further details from:-

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54, Lyle Road,
GREENOCK, PA16 7QT

Tel. 0475 32766

PLEASE MENTION KAYAK MAGAZINE WHEN ANSWERING THIS ADVERTISEMENT

A new membership list has been compiled. This shows that we have 134 members but, I sometimes wonder where they all hide, as with the exception of a few ever present faces, many are never seen.

However over the next few months as the weather gets warmer, there are some events planned which should bring some of them out of their winter's hibernation.

The first of these is the club White Water Race and Barbecue to be held on Sunday the 6th of April. This is intended to be a non serious introduction to the sport of River Racing for both young and old. The course will be from Ashiesteel to Fairnilee, a distance of 2 miles of mainly gently flowing water with the Fairnilee rapid (grade 2 - 3) at the finish. Safety canoes will be at Fairnilee and other points on the river. This course is ideal for beginners and presents no great difficulties.

Any type of canoe may be used and prizes will be awarded. There will be some further opportunity for canoeing before a barbecue in the early evening (bring your own sausages).

For further details contact David Wolfe (canoeing) and Richard Price (barbecue). Parents are especially welcome and will be required to assist with the organising of the race.

The Tweed Marathon, run by this club, is to be held on Sunday the 4th May. The course is again very easy and provides a good day out for the family. We will require a good turn out of paddlers so that we can retain the Challenge Trophy.

CRAIGLOCKHART will restart on Monday the 28th of April at 1830 hrs prompt. Activities will be much as in previous years i.e. bat polo, coaching for beginners etc. but this year we propose having more serious training for those who intend taking part in Sprint and Marathon Racing.

The BATHS sessions at Sciennes School will continue until the 25th of March. However if demand justifies then the booking can be extended. Watch for notices on Tuesdays for further developments.

The next coaching class organised by Scott Balfour at McDONALD ROAD will be on the 11th March from 2100 - 2200 hrs.

The CANAL HUT continues to be popular and several people have requested keys, but there is no further storage space. Hopefully we will be able to extend our premises this year.

Thursday night trainings will restart in about mid-March when the clock changes. There will be slalom training plus a group doing sprint and marathon training. Those interested in "just having a paddle" can come along and participate as they please.

One member of the club has been severely reprimanded for using without the owner's prior permission, a canoe and paddle from the hut. This person is a canoeist of some standing and should have known better. Let this be a warning to others...the club committee will not hesitate to impose severe penalties to those abusing the facilities of the canal hut.

Several club canoes available for hire are stored at the hut and may be borrowed if a member of the club committee is informed.

The slalom gates also disappeared from their usual place in the canal hut and this caused inconvenience to those who train there. They have now mysteriously returned. I would like to hear from anybody who knows where they were.

As a final note SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. Please send your cheques or postal orders to:

David Wolfe,
7, Easter Currie Crescent,
Currie, Midlothian. EH14 5LH.

The following rates apply : -

Family membership	...	£6.50
Senior	...	4.00
Junior	...	2.50
Canal Hut	£3 per canoe per year.	

6th APRIL CANOE AND BARBECUE at FAIRNILEE BRIDGE on the RIVER TWEED

Starting from FCC Hut at Lochrin Basin at 10 a.m. - meeting at Fairnilee Bridge.

All car owners who could take extra passengers please 'phone Richard Price at 228 6715.

All people requiring a lift please also 'phone Richard.

Barbecue : bring your own sausages, hamburgers etc. Frying pans also welcome. Bring the family, all welcome - No charge.

27th April CANOE AND BARBECUE at SEACLIFFE BEACH

Starting at FCC Hut at Lochrin Basin 10 a.m. meeting at North Berwick and Dunbar.

Surfing - Beginners welcome. Capable canoeists required to assist.

All other arrangements as to 'lifts', cars, cooking etc. as above.

Bring your family - all welcome - No charge.

8th JUNE Weather permitting a trip round BASS ROCK from SEACLIFFE BEACH

followed by another super Barbecue. Capable canoeists required to assist.

All welcome. Meet at FCC Hut, Lochrin Basin at 10 a.m.

All enquiries please telephone Richard Price at 228 6715.

SCOTTISH CANOE EXHIBITION



**MEADOWBANK SPORTS CENTRE
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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