

KAYAK

MAGAZINE



November 1980

A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

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KAYAK MAGAZINE is the official club magazine of the FORTH CANOE CLUB, issued free to members quarterly. It is available to non-members for a subscription of £2.40 (4 copies) per annum, payable in advance to Alastair Williamson, 29 Swanston Terrace EDINBURGH, EH10 7DN. (cheques payable to "Forth Canoe Club" includes post).

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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN KAYAK MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITORS
NOT LATER THAN THE 1st OF THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION (Feb. May. August & November)

E D I T O R I A L

The season of A.G.M.s is with us again and the long knives are out for good or evil as is the wont of the wielders at this time.

When one accepts nomination for an official post and is subsequently elected, it is naturally assumed, under the democratic process that the majority of fellow members are in favour and are morally bound to give their support. Indeed, having volunteered to give freely(?) of one's time and effort to the cause of canoeing, it seems only right to expect such support.

Seldom is one free from some criticism, but then it is not possible to please everyone, and no leader worth his salt ever did; or he was not doing his job properly. However, so long as one's efforts on the whole are beneficial to the National Association, the Club, or the Committee, whichever is applicable, the minor shortcomings on which the critics are prone to seize can be discounted. My own reply to critics was "Never criticise my methods but you may comment on the results".

There are many who have given yeoman service to the cause of canoeing in different capacities but, because their efforts have often met with harsh and undeserved criticism, they have given up the struggle - unwept, unhonoured and unsung.

Nothing is more demoralising than a lack of appreciation by those for whom one labours voluntarily. The critics themselves are seldom motivated by high ideals or concern for the good name of canoeing, but more often by some petty incident which has affected them personally and, if they are articulate enough, havoc can ensue as they pursue a course to obtain selfish satisfaction even to the extent of organising a lobby to influence the voting at an A.G.M.

Regrettably we are not all endowed with the ability and qualities required to fulfil adequately an administrative position in its entirety, so I would counsel the critics to consider carefully their own endowments and question whether they have what it takes to make a success of the job themselves before launching out on some anti-campaign to soothe their battered pride, envy or ambition. In other words: Don't shoot the pianist....he is doing his best!

J.C.

AUCHENREOCH CANOE REGATTA - 7th SEPTEMBER, 1980

or, alternatively, How to have a day's fun and make a fool of yourself at the same time.

Richard Price

I decided to take the family down to Dumfries with me for a restful long weekend; do a spot of Canoe Polo with the Forth C.C. team, and then relax. When we arrived we were made more than welcome at the Camping site not far from the loch. Despite conditions which were more akin to something within the Arctic Circle, we endured the night, looking forward to some leisurely canoeing next day.

First impressions of the Regatta were that it was well organised (right on the doorstep was the Hotel/Administration and plenty liquid refreshment etc.) About 150 competitors turned up, and most of the events took place in front of the hotel, including a 500m slalom canoe dash for veterans over age of 25. Winner took away a large bottle of whisky (I'll remember to enter that next time!)

Fun time started after the more serious racing. There was a rolling competition. I satisfied a lifetime ambition of getting a place - last! in a record time of 3 mins. 06 secs. for 10 rolls. I think the winner did his 10 in 54 secs. Next was a chariot race where two bats supported a charioteer on the backs of the two canoeists. The battle to get round the buoy was more akin to Nelson's battle of Trafalgar. 90% of the opposition's Armada were sunk or limped home. Forth C.C. took the honours in the Bat Polo team competition. I didn't see much of this game as Messrs Wolfe and Riddell did their utmost to disengage the opposition from their bats. Guess who was in the opposing team - ?

All in all, apart from the tragic weather conditions, I, and I think most other people, had a really good time and I heartily recommend you should circle it on your diary for next year. Apparently next time they are going to make it a two day event with a dance. So, see you there next year. P.S. start praying now for a scorching hot weekend.

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COACHING WANTED

For group of students from Craiglockhart College of Education - novice standard - experienced canoeist required to instruct on Mondays, 17th April, and 4th, 11th and 18th May 1981 - 12.45p.m. to 1.45p.m. Please contact Mrs. Gema Findlaytelephone at work: 031 443 9961 at home: 031 447 8208

ALISTAIR'S ALASKAN ADVENTURE

ALISTAIR WILSON AND FOUR COMPANIONS COMPLETED AN EPIC CANOE TOUR THIS LAST SUMMER DURING AUGUST, FROM WHITTIER TO VALDEZ IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND, COVERING 300 MILES OF ALASKAN WATERS.

The original intention of the expedition was in fact to cross the Bering Strait to Russia. However, in spite of many requests by letter and telephone and even a visit to the Russian Embassy in London, permission could not be obtained to land on Russian territory. The full report of the trip is being written up by Derek Hutchinson, leader of the expedition, for publication elsewhere, but our own intrepid reporter and editorial colleague Andy Morton, got hold of Alistair on his return and the following is a report of the interview which took place. We have omitted Andy's part in the dialogue to save space, but Alistair's answers will give a fair idea of the questions asked.

1. We spent three weeks on the water during August but we had, in fact, a week of preparation in Anchorage before we left. As you will appreciate, spending three weeks in the wilderness requires very careful planning to ensure that all essentials are included.
2. The Group comprised - the Leader, Derek Hutchinson from Sunderland, Chris Jowsey from Newcastle, Tom Caskey from Glasshouses, myself from Prestwick and George Peck, an American who is the magistrate in Seward, Alaska.
3. After crossing the Bering Strait, it was intended to paddle north above the Arctic Circle to Kotzebue and, in fact, this would have proved to be a much more potentially hazardous undertaking than our alternative route which was in Prince William Sound. This lies in the Chugach National Park, 40 miles south of Anchorage.
4. It was suggested we switch to Prince William Sound by George Peck who had already done some paddling in the area and raved about the wild life and the scenery.
5. George used a Biadarka. The rest of us used Derek's new Umnak "Icefloe". Tom, Chris and I used "Nordkapp" paddles. Derek used the "Seamaster" and George used an American made paddle which had flat blades in fibreglass and an aluminium tube. We all carried centre jointed "Seamasters" as spares.
6. One of the most useful pieces of equipment was the Valley Canoe Products Aqua Sac which we used. This proved invaluable for keeping our kit dry, even when several of the kayaks were holed and took in several gallons of water. Derek even kept a pump action shot gun in an Aqua Sac slung in the cockpit between his legs! This gun was still in prime condition at the end of the trip. I personally had made up a small mesh terylene net with toggle fixings for the deck and this proved invaluable for holding all the cooking utensils which otherwise would have been difficult to pack. I also had a net slung below the deck behind the seat which was very useful for taking small everyday articles.
7. We camped, except for four nights.
8. There were several memorable moments. The first one being our first sight of an iceberg. Another exciting moment was when I managed to get within 50ft of a Hump Backed Whale, but the outstanding experience was when Derek, George and I deliberately paddled into the middle of a pod of Killer Whales.
9. We had one or two experiences which increased the adrenalin flow.
The /

The first one being woken up at two in the morning on the second night and hearing a bear snuffling around just outside the tent.

The second was the encounter with the Killer Whales. This was an unforgettable experience and although we were all nervous because we knew that had they decided to turn on us we would have had no chance of survival, we felt a definite rapport with them and it seemed as if they were putting on a performance for us. It proved to be a family group comprising one large bull accompanied by a calf, two large females and three medium sized females. The bull appeared to be showing off his offspring and whatever movement he executed, the young one attempted to follow. We witnessed at one stage a threequarter breach by the male and this was followed by a roll on to his back. We were involved with the group for approximately twenty minutes, at the end of which they just suddenly disappeared.

Some facts about Killer Whales. A fully grown male is over 20ft long, has a fin which stands 7 ft high. It has a 3 ft bite, fears nothing and can swim over 20 m.p.h. It is recognised as being the world's most intelligent mammal. Before leaving Anchorage we had seen pictures of a Killer throwing a 300 lb sea lion 30 ft in the air with its tail. Derek had already spent two summers in Alaska and had done a lot of reading and research about this creature. He managed to convince us that we were not on their menu. Fortunately he was proved right!

10. I found the whole experience most rewarding and would certainly do it again given the time and opportunity.

11. Cost approximately £700 each.

12. A photographic record of this sort of trip is absolutely vital. I took a hired waterproof camera which I was unfamiliar with and although I took quite a number of excellent shots, I also had a fair number of poor ones. With any future trip I would spend much more time looking into the photographic equipment side of it.

If I returned to Alaska I would certainly make sure the party took some form of cooking shelter with mosquito netting, since for much of the trip we were plagued by these vicious insects.

REPORTERS WANTED.....So that Kayak Magazine can reflect as wide a coverage of the Scottish Canoeing Scene as possible we need more Reporters. Any canoeist regardless of age, any spectator male or female who sees, hears or comes by any likely newsy information, or gossip, please scribble it on a paper regardless of English composition or spelling and post it, or 'phone it, to us. We will make it presentable. Contributions from moles are particularly welcome. It is said that the greatest piece of literature you can read is your own name in print, which is all this hard-up set-up can offer you in return for your trouble, but we shall of course be eternally grateful.

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Andy Morton, a founder member of our Editorial Board and a tower of strength in our work of publishing KAYAK over the last 8 years has decided to resign as a co-Editor but will retain the responsibilities befitting a Chief Reporter.

THE NEW S.C.A. ADMINISTRATOR
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Many will have already read the biographical notes of our new S.C.A. Administrator, Mrs. Margaret Winter, and be looking forward to meeting her. They will not be disappointed. She is a presentable, active out-door type with the decided advantage of having no pre-conceived ideas or prejudices about organised canoeing. She is not unfamiliar with canoeing, however, having taken part in canoeing activities at School, University and Adventure Centre, as well as other recreational pursuits such as swimming, ski-ing, rowing, cycle touring and camping, to mention only a few.

It will be up to our officials and canoeists in general to present our organisation in its most favourable light and make her work on our behalf as pleasant as possible.

I think we have chosen a winner, and can only hope that it will take a wee while yet before the stork settles on her chimney.

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S. C. A. N.

Andrew Manwell is to be congratulated on his mammoth solo task of producing the sample copy of the new S.C.A. Magazine. One might almost say, an effort beyond the call of duty. Whilst full of interest for those who sit down and plough through the mass of typescript, it will have little appeal to those who merely "Scan" it. It is to be hoped that members will take the trouble to contribute letters, articles and notices, and not just sit back and be critical. The content of an S.C.A. Journal, which should be short, sharp and to the point, is wholly dependent on the membership and will demonstrate the degree of interest shown by its readers. For its initial publication it is surprising that it did not carry a message of welcome from the President. Some up-to-the-minute information on items of general interest such as the progress on the purchase of Grandtully, or a prognosis on the outcome of the A.G.M. would normally have been expected. Photographs without captions make little appeal to the reader. Andrew does not appear to have taken up the suggestion made to him that S.C.A.N. might be published in the months between KAYAK's usual month of publication, to avoid duplication and to spread the news more evenly among the canoeing fraternity.

S.C.A.N. must be the voice of the S.C.A., not that of its Editor.

I am very impressed at the improvement of the junior Sprint, L.D. paddlers, both boys and ladies' times and recent successes are absolutely first class; probably the main reason for these results are the time and devotion over the past few years by Messrs. Samuel, Davidson and Company.

As all serious paddlers know, despite good coaching there comes a time when a barrier is reached where very little improvement is achieved, even with a consistently hard training programme. In fact, to knock 1 or 2 seconds off, say, a 500 metre time, requires a massive uplift in training. Therefore when juniors turn senior an immediate problem arises. How does one get enough training in to continue climbing the ladder whilst holding down a steady job. You only have to look at the Senior Scottish paddlers with the possible exception of a few Slalomists to see how almost everyone, myself included, have stagnated over the last few years despite fairly rigorous training schedules. In fact most of the Seniors have regressed.

If we look over the border at our English counterparts, we see a fantastic development in all classes and in all branches of the sport. Why the difference in standards throughout the U.K.? The critical reason is that most top class internationalists train full time or are fortunate to be University students and have spare time on their hands. The question to be asked here seems to be "Is my canoeing to be my sport or full time occupation"? With the current acceleration of standards in the sport, any talented youngsters must weigh up the situation; if World Champion is the ultimate goal, then continuous full time training is a necessity; so take note juniors and decide accordingly.

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This is the second in a series of articles designed to explain in simple terms the organisation of competitive canoeing for the benefit of newcomers to the sport.

It seemed appropriate to write about the branch of canoeing which is now just at the beginning of its annual programme i.e. White Water Racing. The commonly used terms "Wild Water Racing" or "River Racing" are alternatives frequently used to describe the same sport. The calendar of events starts at about the beginning of November and continues until around May. The most important events come towards the end of the season, the Scottish Championships being held in mid-March and the British Open Championship in May or June.

For those of you who are wondering why people should subject themselves to a soaking with freezing cold water in the middle of winter, the reason is that it is only at this time of year that we can be certain (more or less) of having a good level of water, thus making the race also a challenge against the natural vehemence of the water. Other factors which must be considered are the extensive Slalom and Marathon Racing programmes in the summer months which could make access to the venues difficult and competitors less numerous.

The White Water race is conducted as a time trial with individuals setting out at minute intervals. Ideally the start order should be seeded, the slowest paddlers going off first and the fastest last. During the race you should be aiming to catch up with the person in front of you. This system has been criticised in the past and some people are in favour of mass starts. However, due to the narrow nature of some of the courses and the obvious difficulties for the organisers with up to 100 people crossing the finish line within the space of a few minutes, it is likely that the timed run system will continue.

The length of a White Water course is from 3 miles to 6 miles, or roughly 12 to 30 minutes paddling and should include at least one section of rapid of at least grade III. The rivers used in Scotland are the Clyde, Dee, Tweed, Tay, Awe, Nith and Teith. For those persons who are contemplating entering their first event and are not fully sure of their abilities in a White Water canoe, all of the courses are suitable, except perhaps Grandtully and the Nith which should both be treated with caution. The most important races are held mainly in Wales on the rivers Dee and Trewerwyn (the Trewerwyn is to be used for the World Championships in 1981). These rivers are the venue for four or even five races each year.

White Water Racing is organised in a divisional system in Britain. For men, all paddlers who have never competed previously are classed as division C. Promotion can then be gained to divisions B and then A. Women are split into two divisions and there are similar systems for the Canadians. Full details of the divisional system can be found in the White Water Yearbook along with much other useful information. Another useful publication for all interested in White Water Racing is the White Water Handbook which gives much good advice on training etc.

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CANOEIST OF THE YEAR

Points awarded from four Championship events

	<u>Slalom</u>	<u>1,000m Sprint</u>	<u>Marathon</u>	<u>River Racing</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 A. Morton	-	9	10	9	28
2 K. Fraser	-	7	9	10	26
3 J. Anderson	-	8	-	8	16
4= N. Baxter	10	-	-	-	10
4= R. Montgomery	-	10	-	-	10
5 D. Trotter	9	-	-	-	9
7= S. Ramage	8	-	-	-	8
7= A. Murray	-	-	8	-	8
7= A. Eastwood	-	4	-	4	8
10= A. Meikle	7	-	-	-	7
10= R. Bell	-	-	7	-	7
10= J. Knox	-	-	-	7	7

B.C.U. W.W. RACING COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL ICF CALENDAR 1981

Selected Events

April 26	Monschau	BRD	WW	C	
May 2/3	Bayerwald	BRD	WW	C	
2/3	Monschau	BRD	SL	C	
9/10	Le Chaux	FRA	WW	C	
30/31	Neuss	BRD	WW	C	
June 13/14	Merano	ITA	SL	A	
27/28	Spittal	AUT	WW/SL	C	Junior
28...	Sort+Seo de Urgel	ESP	WW/SL	C	
July 11/12	Augsburg	BRD	SL	C	
15...	Bala	GBR	WW/SL	A	World Champs
Aug 1/2	Lofer	AUT	WW/SL	C	
Sept. 5/6	Kossen	BRD	WW	C	

SOCIAL, PERSONAL and OTHERWISE

CONGRATULATIONS to Cathie and Scott Balfour on the birth of their third daughter, Rachel, on 14th October, 1980.

This now brings the kindergarten membership of the Forth C.C. up to 6.

At the last S.C.A. Council Meeting it was stated that a group from the Heriot-Watt Canoe Club had used Fairnielee during October and November, contrary to the proposed agreement (yet to be ratified). This is emphatically denied by officials of that club, as only one outing has so far been held this term and that was to the Tay, at Stanley/Thistle Brig.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to Garry Young (16) and Neil Davidson (15) of the Kirkcaldy Canoe Club, who have both been selected for the British Olympic Training Squad.

Our officials in Canoeing are no fools - they keep moving.....
The latest to avoid the "sitting duck" tag is R. Kelso Riddell, who has now removed to 24, Hartington Place (opposite Boroughmuir High School) Edinburgh, EH10 4LE. Telephone: 031-229-9586.

We regret very much to report that Dave Tuttle, President of Edinburgh University C.C. and one of our up and coming competitors, has met with a very serious accident. In the course of his Ecology studies, he fell about 30 feet from a tree and landed on his back across a fallen log. He is at present in Edenhall Hospital, paralysed from the waist down and unlikely to be able to walk again. However, he is quite bright, considering, and lying puzzling out how he is going to manage into his canoe again.

The latest successes in the Touring Award Scheme are Bruce Carter (20) and Scott Fowler (17) who have just been awarded their Bronze Medals. Both only joined the scheme this year but have already toured the 375 miles necessary to qualify for the Medal.

A good friend of mine attacked me the other day for the irresponsibility of touring canoeists. He happens to be one of the landowners on West Mull. This summer, 3 cars were left for over a week near his place without a word to any of the locals. After 3 or 4 days they contacted the police and there was considerable local concern over the fate of the owners. All this fuss could have been so easily avoided had those canoe tourists just had the sense to mention at any of the local houses that they were leaving their cars and given also a rough idea when they expected to return. Even a note on the windscreen would have sufficed.

All touring types please note for future action.

LATE NEWS ITEM Rejoice and be exceeding glad for Hazel Pyper, who had her canoe pinched recently, had it returned to her by the Police last week.

or, why I think I should be awarded a gold medal for Supporter of the Year!!

First essential equipment: One landrover or better still a muskeg bombardier! to get to inaccessible places; Ordnance Survey maps of all courses, not only to find access points, but to get there in the first place. Why is it that the bit of river you want is just off one map and not on another, and one has to purchase the new metric variety. Spare paddles, both right and left hand; first aid kit - not for the paddlers, but to treat scratches, twisted ankles and even wasp stings encountered in the call of duty. Orange juice; hot coffee; paper cups, etc. etc. etc.

First Marathon, April 12th, Canal/Kelvin A super race and hope it will be better supported next time. Don't let them kid you with the "Short portage". It must have seemed like 5 miles to some of the young paddlers! One member of the family sharing a double - wise guy, easier to carry. Got to the start only to meet a perspiring George Clelland running up to say start had been changed. Start, by the way, was in the middle of Maryhill and water is approached via old prams, bottles and bedsteads, wear shoes for this one! or have willing support on the side to retrieve them - clutching four pairs of gutties I return to the bank, via an encounter with a soft muddy bit, right over my wellies. Two good places to see paddlers on the way to portage, and thank goodness no problems. Portage consisted of giving nearly every paddler a drink and observing the wiliness of "Uncle Sammy" as he reached in his canoe and pulled out a portable wheel contraption and duly perambulated down the road passing weary paddlers on the way. Last paddler was that noted veteran who sat and had hot coffee and a picnic before proceeding, after ministering to his needs I proceeded back to the car, only to find the finish was further up river as the River Kelvin was rather low. Prize giving followed and our intrepid veteran was given prize of "first rescue boat!"

The Awe Marathon, April 19th. Thank goodness they changed the start this year! Weather was unbelievable, it must have been about gale force 10, and the Pass of Brander resembled the North Sea. Still valiant, they set out with the wind on their backs. First viewpoint, one paddler missing, so a walk to find him rather wet and cold. Next stop, three canoes abandoned, found paddlers and administer the necessary sympathy. At the turn the canoeists were in the teeth of the gale and one by one they dropped out - one could walk beside them as they paddled. At the Power Station Andy, sportingly, pulled out and advised all the juniors to do likewise. So a rather chastened fleet returned home that night.

Tweed Marathon - May 4th. Rather a dull day in comparison with last year, and the river was low, difficult race this as some of the family were on the short course and some on the long. Second start can be reached in time, but for this particular member of the family race preparation is all. Long start, supporting one K1 and 2 K2's as it was decided to portage K2, juniors involved, I missed the rapids at Fairnilee to advise on best place to portage. Viewing for this race is excellent and no mishap that I saw, although one of the K2's capsized 2 miles from finish - saw though a rather lonely figure sitting by the road clutching a paddle: turned out to be an imported slalom paddler who thought Marathons were too far!

Forth and Clyde Marathon, May 18th. Another great race involving a portage - so out comes the paper cups again. It was held on the one nice day of the summer, and after the race lots of lolling about on the grass with a very happy ice cream salesman in the vicinity. Drew and Taff were the heroes of this race, singing along in their K2, offering advice of various kinds to all and sundry. Borrowed a bicycle and scouted back along the tow path to find out the state of the field, this was really pleasant and may be an idea for next year.

Cumrae L.D. June 1st. /

Cumrae L.D. June 1st. was next and this must be the best Marathon for the support crew - The canoeists paddle out of sight and unless you take a ferry to Millport, one can do nothing until they return, this is the life! Wine out of a paper cup and chewing a leg of chicken.....Back came the canoes, one K2 in particular almost completely submerged. After the race the selectors met to pick the Zaan Dam team, so an eager group of youngsters hung about afterwards until the selection was announced. It's a funny thing about Marathons, it can be a super day but everyone bustles about trying to get home quick, why don't they linger and enjoy the sun when they can!

Lubnaig Marathon, June 8th. - similar to Cumrae except paddlers on long course pass the finishing post four times in all so the state of the field can be followed quite closely. Spectacular start after which a young paddler was rescued by surf board! Some new faces at this Marathon some of which reappeared over the season. Extra bonus was the lemonade dished out by Duncan's soft drinks.

Tay Leukaemia Race, June 15th. - favourite river, and wonderful - nobody had to be ferried out and up at Thistle Brig. Only criticism, I know this race is for charity, but some of the young paddlers got a shock at the £2.00 entry fee, perhaps this should be in the information sheet next year, and perhaps will encourage more youngsters to collect sponsors, as the alternative to an entry fee. Exciting finish with a Div II paddler beating the Div I's.

Loch Ken Marathon, June 29th - as this is the furthest race on the calendar, we decided to take the caravan, just as well, 20 miles from home the exhaust fell off; managed to find a broken (promise) fence and managed to fix it, among the glorious scenery of Midlothian's bings. Pleasant caravan site, but shortest route, had resulted in an overworked clutch or something, and great consternation over the smell.....Beautiful setting, but with so much Loch did the race have to encroach on the water ski-ing section, making it rather a lottery for position. Also some canoeist opted for an unplanned portage. During a pre-race try out a rudder cable snapped; a phone call to Lendal brought rudder wire to the scene, luckily in time for the race. More new faces this time, including some rather glamorous paddlers, which did much to revive the spirits of our usual band.

Kirkcaldy - Burntisland Marathon, July 6th. A new race this year and rather sparsely attended; well worth entering as there is an interesting collection of perpetual trophies. Plenty of rescue, in case of bad weather, but it was a glorious day and the sea was very calm. This was the first sighting of the Denny/Easson combination, a team to be reckoned with in the future.

Tail o' the Bank, August 16th. Not a race for beginners; course stretching to Helensburgh and back, but it was a calm day. Unfortunately the first three home took a wrong buoy and were disqualified, perhaps a visit to an optician would be in order! Very civilised race this, as there is a super club house to sit in and refresh yourself while you wait.

Irvine Marathon, August 24th. and a great battle for the portable tele', never mind Kenny, there's always another year. Irvine has one of the nicest trophies I've seen, a model of a K2, appropriately enough for the first K2. One unsung hero of this race was Stephen from KCC who, when his K2 paddler took cramp, returned, jumped in a K1 and completed the short course as well.

Tay Marathon, August 30-31st. deserves a chapter of it's own; some enjoyable moments, such as Kenny's face when he discovered we'd stripped out his foot pump in an attempt to fix it; all was well; it was in good working order for the river section. River section meant broken paddles which we duly replaced. Didn't see Grandtully as I was instructed to be above the rapid in case of more broken paddles, didn't see Thistle Brig as I was the only one who knew how to get in further down; why doesn't everyone know about Ordnance Maps! Missed the finish as I was also "covering" tailenders; Never mind, quite a few /

few people were glad of the anti-histamine cream as there were wasps everywhere. I also got stung and had a fantastic reaction - but that's another story.

Three Bridges, Perth, October 11th. Actually 4 Bridges, twelve down two to go; new race but vantage points take a lot of finding. I thought one could cross Friarton Bridge from Perth, but eventually got to the other side via Bridge of Earn, made it to the turn of the long course, tried to do the same on the way back and made it via the Inverness by-pass. A few capsizes in this one due, I think, to tidal races on the turn; for one veteran it was his first race ever, and in a K1 too, his face was a study as he slapped his way across the line - you know what they say about the last mile home. Gorgeous prizes of Caithness glass, but unfortunately none found their way to my sideboard! One paddler was disappointed, he turned up on Sunday to find no-one there, always check with organisers for correct date, time and place.

Clyde L.D, October, 26th. Last, but certainly not least - and a little bird tells me that this may be the venue for next year's K1 Championships. This time Horse shoe saw the thrills and spills and George, Doug and I pulled not a few out of the water, retrieved and replaced broken paddles and ferried broken boats. I hear Kenny found a new and exhilarating chute at Garrion by going straight over the weir, not to be copied. I eventually retrieved my intrepid veteran from a market garden after seeing his helmet and bag on a wall, luckily the proprietor was very affable, and arrived too late for the prize giving, but I hear Kenny Fraser completed the season as he had begun, by winning a marathon.

Who is this year's Champion? we don't know yet, but, thank you all, Lads and Lassies, for giving me a great Marathon Season, albeit from the bank. Who knows, next year, perhaps! I know I can't beat them but maybe I'll join them.

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COMING EVENTS FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

1980

6th - 7th December Annual General Meeting of the SCA - SELKIRK

1981

4th January	Teith W.W. Race - Drew Samuel, Auchengillan, Blanefield, Glasgow, G63 9AU.
25th "	Thistle Brig II W.W. Race - P. McLennan, 16 Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh 9.
31st "	Scottish Canoe Polo Championships, Edinburgh. R.K. Riddell, 24 Hartington Pl. Edin.
1st February	Scottish Universities W.W. Racing Champs. Grandtully Miss N. Coulthard, Dundee University Sports Union, Airlie Place, Dundee.
8th "	Clyde W.W. Race - G.U.C.C. Competition Secretary, Stevenson Building, 77 Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow.
22nd "	Mackerston W.W. Race; C; Open - K. Fraser, 2, Mansfield Square, Hawick, Roxburgh.

HOW ABOUT THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION TO GET YOUR ENTRY IN
AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT?

In the last issue of KAYAK, David Wolfe, commenting on Marathon/L.D. stated that he could not explain the attraction of this aspect of our sport. I doubt if this is still the case after the recent successful Clyde L.D. - an excellent race!

The river was high - indeed one competitor remarked that there was bigger water than in some of the W.W. events. At the Crossford start there were 11 K1's and 6 K2's while the Div 4 (novice) start, saw 13 entrants in a variety of craft including a sea touring kayak.

Horseshoe Fall, Garrion Weir and Addersgill all saw their fair share of capsizes, but only 2 K1's and 2 K2's failed to complete the course. Kenny Fraser won by over 2 minutes from an out of training Andy Morton.

Main Results

Div 1.	K. Fraser	Roxburgh	76.51
Div 2.	D. Wolfe	Forth	84.14
Div 3.	A. Meikle	Strathclyde Univ.	82.14
Div 4.	K. Bryce	Strathclyde Univ.	51.46
Div 5.	V. Taylor	G.U.C.C.	58.00
Div 6.	A. Denny	R.W.S.A.B.C.	74.57
	P. Easson	Forth	
1st U.16	S. McCartney	Paisley	61.30

Lost K1

The one unfortunate incident of the day was the disappearance of a K1. Clyde Douglas of Irvine, retired at Garrion Weir after damaging his rudder. He left the boat in the lay-by and when he returned with transport, it had gone. If you have heard of a K1 being acquired under suspicious circumstances, please contact me or Irvine C.C. Late News...We are delighted to report that this canoe has now been found.

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS - STRATHCLYDE PARK - SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 1980

Open Men - K1 - 10,000m

1. K. Fraser	ROX	51.07.02
2. A. Denny	RWSABC	53.28.09
3. S. Murphy	IRV	53.41.33

Open Ladies - K1 - 6,000m

1. A. Edwards	KIR	41.16
2. D. Mills	KIR	41.17
3. M. Kinninmonth	KIR	41.18

Veteran Men - K1 - 10,000m

1. C. Dunlop	IRV	57.44.83
2. D. Maycock	KIR	61.43.
3. E. Davidson	KIR	61.44.

Boys Espada B - 3000m

1. S. Shaw	KIR	14.46
2. G. Wilson	FOR	20.23
3. B. Begley	FOR	22.10

Junior Men - K1 - 6,000m

1. J. Adair	IRV	32.43
2. N. Davidson	KIR	32.50
3. A. Davidson	KIR	33.25

Boys Espada A. - 3000m

1. M. O'Brien	KIR	21.12
2. P. Maycock	KIR	22.49
3. A. Maycock	KIR	23.27

C O M M E N T S

- 1) The Duke of Edinburgh was very critical of the system of Sports Councils, set up by the government to oversee the spending of public money on sport, at a recent meeting of the Association of Governing Bodies of Sport in Scotland. One of the points he made was that since appointments to the Scottish Sports Council are made by the Scottish Secretary, they could not reasonably represent the governing bodies of sport in any International forum, and it was difficult for them to disagree with government policy in public. This comment ignores the attitude of many National Sporting Bodies over the government policy towards the Olympic Games, and does he really believe that the Secretary of State for Scotland makes appointments to the Sports Council without consultation with the governing bodies of sport and considering the sporting achievements and experience of each candidate? The present system of disbursing money through the different sports councils did not work, he maintained, but he made no suggestions of how it could be made to work.

It is difficult to understand why he should condemn the present system of Sports Councils when he himself heads the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme which is decentralised throughout the Commonwealth, having in this country Headquarters in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with a national secretary in charge of each. Of course an organisation like his that can launch a National Appeal and pull in £1½ million in the first two weeks does not need to worry about getting subs from the Sports Councils. It will be interesting to see what kind of organisation he sets up to dispense that kind of money.

- 2) How would Canoeing, and all who participate in it, fare if we insisted on the Amateur Status as laid down by the S.R.U. who recently barred forever from any participation in rugby - even as a coach - one of their most prominent players ex-Captain of the National side and a British Lion, Ian McLachlan, because he would benefit financially from a book he wrote about rugby. That may err on the extreme side, but I cannot help feeling that canoeing errs to the other extreme.

- 3) Do we harbour rogues and vagabonds in our midst, or have we fallen amongst thieves? There has been a spate of robberies recently, including the pinching of Hazel Pypers 'Equipe', Douglas of the Irvine club having his K1 removed at the Clyde L.D., Anne Davidson having stuff nicked from her car at one event, not to mention the loss of sundry anoraks, buoyancy aids and paddles that have all disappeared. At current prices, any loss is bound to represent a fair sum of money and after paying some of today's exorbitant entry fees, few canoeists can afford such losses.

I hope the culprits are good swimmers, because if any should be found my suggestion is that they should be dumped in the nearest water and kept there for 5 minutes to cool off their hot-headed impulses to steal: much more effective (and satisfying to the losers) than the cotton wool treatment of the Childrens' Panel or the minor fine of the Courts.

Div I (max 120 points)

1	A. Morton	F.C.C.	118
2	A. Samuel	Trossachs	117
3	J. Adair (J)	Irvine	91
4	A. Murray	RWSABC	71
5	K. Fraser	Roxburgh	59
6	F. Nelson	Falkirk	54
7	R. Montgomery	Irvine	51
8	R. Bell (J)	Trossachs	37
9	A. Davidson	KCC	35
10	N. Davidson (J)	KCC	19
	G. Young (J)	KCC)	promoted
	D. Wolfe	FCC)	no results

Ladies Div I

1	A. Edwards	KCC	118
2	M. Kinninmonth	KCC	104
3	D. Mills	KCC	85
4	A. Millar	KCC	57
5	F. Smeaton	KCC	51
6	L. Morrison	FCC	39
7	V. Taylor	GUCC	38
8	M. Pennie	FCC	20
	A. Airey	AUCC) promoted
	F. Heggie	Falkirk)	no results

Div II

1	S. Murphy	Irvine	43
2	A. Denny	RWSABC	20
= 2	D. Tuttle	EUCC	20
	A. Morrison	SUCC)
	P. Easson	FCC)no results
	H. Kerr	RWSABC)	

Ladies Div II

1=	J. Wilson	FCC	20
1=	L. Mitchell	RWSABC	20
1=	F. Veneer	KCC	20
1=	K. Jarvis	FCC	20
5=	J. Bowes	Ind.	19
5=	A. Sime	Moray Ho.	19
5=	G. Robertson	Falkirk	19
5=	C. Arnott	FCC	19
9=	J. Ambler	FCC	18
9=	S. Rennie	Falkirk	18
11	A. Logie	FCC	17
12	M. Jarvis	FCC	16
13	A. Jarvis	FCC	15

Div III

1	G. Richards (J)	Irvine	47
2	I. Robertson	Perth	39
= 2	A. Meikle	SUCC	39
4	K. McNair (J)	Paisley	38
5	I. Bownes	RWSABC	35
6	*A. Manzie	SUCC	33
= 7	G. Wilson (J)	FCC	20
= 7	A. Ashby	SUCC	20
9	J. Gray	KCC	18
10	*R. Todd	RWSABC	17

Div IV (continued) no promotions

13=	A. King (J)	Garnock	19
13=	C. Hickman	Perth	19
13=	L. Plenderleith	EUCC	19
16=	J. Pollock	Garnock	18
16=	R. McCanns	Irvine	18
16=	T. Turcan	St.A.U.C.C.	18
19=	R. Gregory	FCC	17
19=	A. Easson	SUCC	17
19=	B. McKinley	Irvine	17
19=	A. Maycock	KCC	17
19=	R. McKinnon	St.A.U.C.C.	17
24=	D. Newport	FCC	16
24=	I. Webster	PKC	16
24=	T. Moran	Garnock	16
24=	D. Shaw	PKC	16
28=	R. Thomas	SUCC	15
28=	A. Eastwood (J)	Larbert	15
28=	S. McCartney	PKC	15
31=	B. Carter	PKC	14
31=	C. Mills	KCC	14
31=	G. Cluckie	FCC	14
31=	N. Munro	PKC	14
31=	M. McGrath	FCC	14
31=	F. Spence (J)	Falkirk	14
37=	E. Jarvis	FCC	13
37=	G. Donnelly	PKC	13
37	P. Bell	Trossachs	13
37	R. Christie		13
41=	C. Broadley (J)	Garnock	12
41=	A. Stewart	FCC	12
41=	G. Burn	Falkirk	12

For 1981 season all ranking Div III paddlers are promoted to Div II except those marked *

No results, remain in Div III

J. Turcan	S'kelvin
R. Duffus	Irvine
S. Fowler	Paisley
D. Trotter	FCC
I. Webster	
C. Douglas	Irvine

Div IV the following paddlers promoted to Div III

1	E. Davidson	KCC	85
2	L. Blacklaws	KCC	63
3	B. Chapman	FCC	34
3=	G. Miell	Paisley	34
5	N. Dalgleish	KCC	31
6	H. McGray	Falkirk	30
7	A. Edwards	KCC	29
8	A. Gray	Paisley	20
8=	G. Kerr	Garnock	20
8=	A. Jamison	Garnock	20
8=	P. Gardner	GKC	20
8=	A. McNamara	KCC	20

13 continued in next column

MARATHON RACING RESULTS (contd.)

Div IV (contd.) (max 120 points)

44=	W. Meechan	Cumbrae	11
44=	A. Deane	FCC	11
44=	C. Heatley (J)	Falkirk	11
47=	I. Kirkwood	StAUCC	10
47=	E. Burke (J)	Garnock	10
47=	W. Ferguson (J)	FCC	10
47=	J. Watt (J)	Grange	10
51	D. Simpson (J)	Grange	9
52=	H. Davidson (J)	Garnock	8
52=	S. Chalmers (J)	Grange	8
53	A. McNamara	KCC	7

CLUB TROPHY POINTS

K2 Div VI (max 100 points)

1	Denny/Easson	RWSABC/FCC	99	1	Kirkcaldy CC	565
2	Davidson/Gray	KCC	75	2	Forth CC	253
3	Davidson/Young	KCC	57	3	RWSABC	181
4	Denny/Baxter	RWSABC/FCC	40	4	Trossachs C & BC	123
5	Mills/Millar	KCC	33	5	Strathclyde UCC	86
6	Barrie/Blacklaws	KCC	32	6	Irvine CC	60
7=	Anderson/Samuel	RAF/Tross	20	7	Falkirk	43
7=	Dalgleish/Barrie	KCC	20	8	Garnock	31
7=	Mason/Harris	KCC	20	9	Roxburgh	27
10=	Blacklaws/Shaw	KCC	19	10	Paisley KC	23
10=	Barry/Edwards	KCC	19	11	Edinburgh UCC	20
10=	Davidson/Mills	KCC	19	12	Edinburgh WWC	15
10=	Blacklaws/Davidson	KCC	19	13	Glasgow UCC	13
10=	Davidson/McNair	KCC/Paisley	19	14=	Moray House	7
15=	Richards/Bell	Irvine/Tross	18	14=	Perth CC	7
15=	Mason/Blacklaws	KCC	18	14=	St. Andrews UCC	7
15=	Davidson/Shaw	KCC	18	17	Aberdeen UCC	4
15=	Mason/Dalgleish	KCC	18	18	Grange Centre	3
19	Manzie/Thomas	SUCC	17	19	Larbert High	2
20	Wilson/Forde	FCC	16	20=	Glasgow Kayak Club	1
				20=	Cumbrae CC	1

Compiled by Alistair Denny

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Joe collapsed at the wheel of his car on Friday, 5th September 1980, his 60th birthday, and died almost immediately.

Among canoeists Joe will be remembered as one who had a great love for sea canoeing, particularly on the west coast of which his knowledge was unsurpassed among his contemporaries. In his forty-six years of sea paddling, he toured most of Scotland's coastline and a portion of Norway's.

He had a great appreciation of wild life, and built up an immense store of knowledge of the birds and seals. Indeed, for a number of years, Joe made annual canoe trips to the Treshnish Isles in late September and October, to do a count of the breeding population of grey seals, the results of which were gratefully received by the Nature Conservancy, and he was looking forward to this year's visit.

Although primarily a sea canoeist, Joe tried his hand successfully at slalom, down river racing, long distance racing and the occasional regatta. He also served on the S.C.A. Council for a number of years, held office in the S.C.A., and was a member of the Scottish Hostellers and Cloch Canoe Clubs.

Canoeists of the pre-glassfibre era knew Joe as a craftsman who built beautifully proportioned and finished sea canoes, and it will come as no surprise to them, that as well as earning his living as a house builder, he regularly restored antiques, and cleaned and repaired paintings with equal skill. He was also an excellent photographer and his slide shows provided many a pleasant winter evening.

While unequivocally Scottish himself, Joe had the gift of relating to ordinary people of other lands, and was further travelled than most realised, having visited Norway, Iceland, Ireland, Germany, South Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Italy and U.S.A., that I am aware of. He was one of a party of Scottish canoeists who took part in a cruise down the Danube, at the invitation of the governing German canoeing body, to celebrate the fiftieth (I think) anniversary of its founding.

Joe will be sadly missed by his friends, for if you had him for a friend you had a friend indeed.

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Neil Spinks and I had been Team Manager and Coach of the International Squad for three years. These seasons had witnessed a considerable improvement in the standard of the Squad paddlers, and we went to the Slalom Committee meeting in September ready to outline our proposals for the 1980/81 training season. We were not given the opportunity to put forward our plans. Instead, to our surprise, we were presented with a complete new strategy. Our abilities were brought into question and it was suggested that I had outlived my usefulness as Squad Coach. New personnel were proposed and I was offered a job as video camera operator!

It took a few hours after that meeting for the full implications of the new arrangement to sink in. It became clear that it was a complete reversal of my methods and objectives of the past three years. In particular, the selection policy appeared to be very narrow and young Squad members were not to be given sufficient time to come to terms with the demands of the training programme. What I found most distasteful was that while no one had discussed this new scheme with me before that Committee meeting, it was obvious that a great deal of discussions had been going on amongst other Committee and Squad Members without my knowledge.

I wrote to the Slalom Committee pointing out the shortcomings of the new proposals as I saw them, and tendering my resignation, as I had no wish to continue to hold any position in an organisation which dealt with its members in this manner. At the same time, Neil Spinks also tendered his resignation. I was subsequently offered the post of Senior Squad Manager, but as I could not summon up any enthusiasm for the task, I declined.

If any member of the Squad feels that I have let them down, then I apologise. I leave the Squad with great regret, but at least with the satisfaction that I have seen Scotland beat Great Britain "A" at an International Team event. I feel sure that the team will go on from strength to strength and they do so with my good wishes.

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UP THE SLALOM TEAM

David Cuthill

The Pre-World Slalom Championships have certainly sparked off some enthusiasm, particularly amongst the Scottish Ladies team who have come on by leaps and bounds since. Jane Wilson and Lynda Morrison are out training every day from their Almond Vale flat, although I feel Jane is developing a one sided, almost Canadian paddling style. I really must admire her spirit - she was even prepared to cycle 200 miles to Washburn Div I when she couldn't get a lift. Neil Baxter is in the town of Stone in Staffordshire, training with Irishman Shane Kelly. This could prove to be a real threat to the English domination of top slaloms.

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Drew Samuel, seldom out of the headlines, has given Kayak Editors a great idea. We could run a raffle and pay for our secretarial expenses from levies extorted from committee members whilst they are still in a drunken stupor from drinking the prizes.

The exclusive under-the-thumb-club tried to hold its A.G.M. in the all day disco in Perth. Apologies were received from Irvine Ross, Alan Eastwood, Micky, Tim Lyddon, Jake, Sunny Jim, Andy Morton, Lelso Riddell and Graham Smith. The business of the meeting was to admit the newest member, Dave Shearer and to expel Alistair Denny, but nobody turned up because they'd all forgotten to ask their wives for time off and other arrangements had been made on their behalf.

The F.C.C. Kamikaze Hot dog Trampolining Acupuncturists are organising a sea canoeing/bunjie jumping expedition on December 25th. Meet on top of the centre span of the Forth Bridge at midnight - bring your training logbooks with you.

An enquiry has been received about SCAN from the B.C.U. Department of Race Relations regarding the front cover photo caption. We reassured them that "SCAN OPENS FOR DE BATE" has nothing to do with Black South African Marathon paddlers attacking trout fishermen.

Dave Shaw's timing equipment is definitely going to be ready for Christmas and rumours that the clock mechanisms had rusted over are not true. Yes, the S.C.A.'s answer to the space shuttle and Concorde is soon to be in action; the delay has probably been lack of availability of thermionic valves. A small voice at the back enquiring "which Christmas" was drowned in the clamour to second a motion to throw more slalom committee money into the project.

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