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KAYAK

MAGAZINE



May 1981

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 Terr., EDINBURGH, EH10 7DN. (cheques payable to "Forth Canoe Club" includes postage).

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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 (August, November, Feb. and May)

E D I T O R I A L

The Commonwealth canoeing events to be held at the beginning of August - only two months away - must be the most important canoeing occasion ever to take place in Scotland. The organisers have been busy getting the preliminary bits and pieces planned out, but the time has come when the help of the canoeing fraternity is now needed to assist, especially with all the trimmings necessary at such a gathering of International canoeists.

Please don't wait to be asked - telephone Mrs. Winter, at 031-226-4401 or contact any member of the Slalom, White Water or Sprint Committees, and offer your services. See the official appeal for help from Morag Boyd on page 5.

We need the public there in large numbers so that we can get money out of them by: sales of programmes; souvenirs; tickets for river-side seats; entry to ceilidhs or discos; ice cream; teas; film shows, etc. Guess who is going to make the arrangements and do the selling?.....Yes, you!

Once we get the public there it will be necessary to entertain them and give them and the T.V. audience a spectacle other than just canoeing. The Committee hopes that, with your help, we shall have the nations' flags flying from high poles, and pipe bands playing at the opening ceremony. To cope with enquiries there will be Information Kiosks at Aberfeldy and Grandtully and, to help get folks there, the A.A. will be asked to sign-post the routes for a 25 mile radius.

In addition to the Slalom and W/W Committees, the organisers are:- George Clelland, Morag Boyd, Maggie Soutar, Jim McPherson, Jim Cameron (of Afton Canoes), and Dave Cuthill. The Sprint and Marathon Committees will run the sprint events at Strathclyde Park.

Every member of the S.C.A. and all its camp followers will be expected to commit themselves in some way, from litter picker-uppers, to the speech of welcome maker at the opening ceremony.

The success of these events will benefit the S.C.A. for a long time to come. We would like our visitors to leave happy and impressed by our Scottish canoeing set-up.

A SAFER APPROACH TO WHITE WATER - (BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTE)

Revised manufacturing Code and safety requirements for canoes

(With acknowledgements to the B.S.I. News)

Ever since Rob Roy put the sport on the map, canoeing in Britain has grown by leaps and bounds. But the apparent simplicity of the craft belies the real difficulties inherent in writing a code of practice for their manufacture. As for safety requirements, it can be said that a canoe is only as safe as the canoeist inside it. Nevertheless a new two-part Standard, BS MA 91 'Canoes' surfaces this month, revising and superseding the old standard. Here Mr. G.C. Good, of the British Canoe Union, sketches out the historical background to the standard and deftly steers the reader through some of the complexities that have faced the B.S.I. drafting committee of which he is a member.

A BOOST FROM ROB ROY

Canoeing in Britain and Europe took off in the 1860's when John MacGregor (Rob Roy) built himself a kayak and proceeded to tour Britain, Europe and the Middle East in it. He founded the Royal Canoe Club with the then Prince of Wales - himself a keen paddler - as patron. Rob Roy's boats were 12ft. 6in. (3.8m) to 14ft 6in. (4.4m) in length, about 30in (0.76m) in beam, and clinker-built of oak. (The craft he used for his Jordan and Nile camping cruise is displayed at the Royal Canoe Club).

KAYAKS PREDOMINANT IN U.K.

Since those early days, canoeing, like many other sports, has progressed by leaps and bounds. 90% of our activity is kayaking and 10% canoeing, whereas in North America, for instance, the proportions are reversed. The canoe is an open, river craft derived from the Red Indian boats that were then used by the early explorers in Canada. The kayak is a shallow, decked boat, designed for the sea and traditionally used by Eskimos for fishing and hunting.

WOOD VERSUS REINFORCED PLASTIC

Wood has remained a favourite building material, and today cold-moulded veneer still produces the best looking, and some would argue, the best performing medium. Lath and canvas - a timber framework covered by a soft skin - allowed adequate hull shapes to be produced more cheaply and easily than wood, and was popular until the mid-1960's. Its use has not entirely died out, although folding versions are now very rare in this country. In 1960 however, glass reinforced plastic (GRP) boats appeared on the market from Germany and in a short time this type of construction has virtually eclipsed other types. GRP is nowadays by far the most common material in use for canoes and kayaks in Britain.

Part 1 of BS MA 91 'Code of practice for canoe construction' includes a section that describes reinforced plastics construction in detail. Table 1 of the code shows the variation in requirements for the different types of craft.

The sport of canoeing embraces: Olympic racing, where long (17ft=5.2m), narrow, open cockpit lightweight craft compete on still water; Marathon racing, where identically long, narrow, but not so lightweight craft compete on natural waterways - including the shooting of rapids and weirs; Wild-water racing, involving medium length (14ft 9in = 4.5m) closed cockpit boats with narrow water-splitting bows, but high volume buoyant sterns; Slalom, where short (13ft = 4m) well-rockered, low-volume vessels are tightly manoeuvred through a white water obstacle course; Surfing, requiring very short (11ft = 3.3m) rigid, flat bottomed kayaks capable of surviving Atlantic surf; Polo, a team game, where small boats (6.9ft = 2.3m) are propelled at one another in a contest to obtain the ball; and the very different activities of river or sea touring.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS /

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

The Standard makes the important point that no matter how many precautions are taken, there is no such thing as a safe canoe, there is only a safe canoeist, and his or her safety is ensured by good training, experience, and avoidance of unnecessary risks.

Inland, the greatest danger is to be pinned against an obstacle in moving water. To become entangled in a fallen tree on a swollen river is to be avoided at all costs for there is usually no escape. A miscalculation in running a rapid can lead to a boat being pinned against a rock. It is likely that the spray deck will be forced in and the force of water filling the boat will wrap it around the rock. It is better in this instance for the boat to split, as this will release the canoeist. If it does not split, there is a considerable risk that the occupant's legs will be jammed, preventing escape.

Strength of construction, bulk-heading, fittings and equipment, pumping facilities, and highly visible colours, are the main criteria for safety.

MANUFACTURERS' KNOW-HOW

In putting together the Code of Practice for canoe manufacture and the Specification for safety features of canoes, the committee has had to wrestle with many contradictory requirements.

A great deal of know-how has been accumulated by the established manufacturers and this experience has been incorporated into BS MA 91. The standards of the British Canoe Manufacturers' Association were used as a basis and in its revised and updated form the Standard constitutes a sound and workable reference document safeguarding the interests of all who seek fulfilment in 'the pleasure of the paddle'.

TABLE 1. Design recommendations for different canoe types.

Use	Rigidity more important		Flexibility more important		Mass important	Approximate resin/CSM reinforcement ratio (by mass)	Types of reinforcement recommended in addition to chopped strand mat (CSM)		
	Deck	Hull	Deck	Hull			Glass woven rovings	Polyester	Aramid
Slalom			*	*	*	1:1	*	*	*
Wild-water racing			*	*	*	1:1	*	*	*
Sprint racing		*			*	1:1	*		*
Marathon racing		*			*	1:1	*	*	*
Wild-water touring			*	*		1.5:1	*	*	
Inland touring						2:1			
Sea touring						1.5:1	*	*	
Surfing		*				1.5:1	*		
Bath and general purpose training)						2:1			
Rescue	*					2:1			

* Indicates features that should be given priority for the individual type or use of canoe.

ACTION WANTED

The Slalom Committee would appreciate the help and co-operation of members over the next few months in two areas.

A. Grandtully Development

As most of you know, the S.C.A. has been negotiating the purchase of Grandtully station yard for the past 2 - 3 years. The sale is now completed and some work has started. There are some tasks that can be undertaken by us while waiting for money to go ahead with major work.

Two working weekends are planned for 16th/17th May and 6th/7th June. The work to be done includes - organising slalom equipment and clearing banks and station yard of litter and scrub. Anyone who can bring tools should do so (files, drills, saws, hammers, screwdrivers, picks, sledgehammers, etc. + POWER SAWS WITH SKILLED OPERATORS).

Volunteers will be welcome for either one or two days each weekend. We hope to have a bonfire on Saturday evening - bring your own grub and make it a barbecue!

B Commonwealth Slalom Championships, 8th - 9th August, 1981.

During the week prior to the event i.e. 3rd-7th August, help will be needed to set up the course, erect tents, prepare the camp site etc.

During the actual event, volunteers will be required for judging, scribing and manning control.

PLEASE LET MISS MORAG BOYD, WELLHILL, BY MONTROSE, TAYSIDE, DD10 9LF (Phone: 067 483 227), KNOW WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO GET ON THE JOB.

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S.C.A. Notepaper

With the Commonwealth canoeing activities in the forefront of our minds just now, how many have noticed the sub-title on the S.C.A. notepaper, "Founder members of the British Commonwealth Canoeing Federation"? No doubt it will have been noticed and read many times but how many know that it is a piece of nonsense. When the B.C.C.F. was formed in the early '60s we were not eligible for full membership because at that time we were not an independent Scottish canoeing organisation. In fact all our competitors had to be individual members of the B.C.U. in order to compete in ranking events. This was brought home forcibly to the S.C.A. when an application was made for a Scottish entry to the Commonwealth Games and we were told to get lost. So, is it not time we dropped this silly sub-title from the S.C.A. notepaper?

It is just possible that we may now qualify for membership under our new set-up but we cannot be ranked as founder members.

---oOo---

PLEASE MENTION THE NAME OF "KAYAK MAGAZINE" WHEN REPLYING TO OUR ADVERTISERS.

Small personal advertisements cost 50p - cash with order.

- 3. It is in the constitution of the British Canoe Union and implicitly in that of the Scottish Canoe Association that our sport should flourish in harmony with other water sports and not act to their detriment. We do not own the rivers any more than the fishermen and we certainly have no justification in not allowing them any undisturbed time to use the water.
- 4. This is a personal point but I think that it is worthy of consideration. The Executive, Council Members and River Advisers of the Scottish Canoe Association put in a large amount of time and effort to promote the sport as a whole in Scotland. They are doing their best to ensure that canoeing and access to water flourishes now and in the future. Do you think that your remarks encourage them in their efforts?

Yours sincerely,

John Fryer
S.C.A. Access Convener.

---oOo---

CARTOON COMPETITION Our congratulations to Paul Smith of our Club who won 2nd prize in the Cartoon Competition run by Canoe Focus. However, what is not acceptable is that the winning cartoon is too rude to publish in Focus.

This under-the-counter award is totally outwith any rational justification and we would demand its immediate withdrawal with the 1st prize going to Paul Smith who was "A close second".

It is to be hoped that many more will support this objection in writing to the B.C.U.

We apologise to him for this poor reproduction of his cartoon, but our method of printing meant it had to be re-drawn on a stencil.



"I KNOW THE LADY LOVES MILK TRAY BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!"

8. To Mr. J.H. Vinestock,
Compass Adventure Centre,
West Granton Road, Edinburgh.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your open communication published in the last issue of KAYAK magazine. You will no doubt accept my formal apologies for not replying by return, but I am sure you will forbear with me in the delay caused by a long search for a suitable translation agency specialising in Lowland Scots. Having recently been successful in my quest, I am now pleased to be in a position to reply to your letter of 1st ultimo.

With regard to the few small spars, window frames, assorted doors, roof trusses, coach bolts and sundry paraphernalia presently encumbering some square feet of floor space at your excellent establishment, which form the substance of the complaint in your letter, I must, on behalf of Forth Canoe Club Enterprises beg to prevail upon your generous hospitality for yet a few weeks longer. However, I am pleased to report that following the beginning of a new financial year for our honourable local authority, we, having been recently in receipt of some small offer of financial assistance to aid our endeavours towards the combination of the above items into some coherent structure in close proximity to the Union Canal, you may expect the removal from your premises such items as we may of necessity require in the aforementioned project, namely the spars, frames and etc., within a short space of time from the receipt of this epistle, subject to the completion of a few remaining formalities yet to be negotiated with the aforementioned local authority.

May we take this opportunity to express our extreme gratitude to you and your organisation who have been so charitable in allowing us the privilege of making use of your facilities for such an unprecedentedly lengthy period of time for the purposes of storage.

May we take this opportunity also to express to you our highest esteem and Beg to remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT KELSO RIDDELL
Commodore, Forth Canoe Club.

~~~~~

#### THE SALESMAN AT OUR DOOR.....

LENDAL now have a very smart V.W. van which made its first appearance at Comrie Slalom before going on to the Awe WWR the following day. Resplendent in the firm's livery, the van was well stocked with the usual paddler's requisites. It was crewed by that noted "double act of 'Big-bad' John and Bill 'fastest-gum-in-the-west' McKinley" with his non-stop line in sales patter. Any of you who bought his Metronomic ("to keep K2 crews in time, you see") or "Solar Powered" paddles, contact your lawyer right away. When seen, they were doing a roaring trade in number discs, which will hardly keep them in the manner to which they hope to become accustomed. The hope is that once word of their appearance at most major events gets around, everyone will find it convenient to do their shopping there. It certainly seems to make sense to arrange delivery of canoes and gear in this way.

While most aspects of coaching are adequately covered at Squad Training sessions with lectures and practical work, one item I've yet to see on an agenda is instruction in the practice of "Gamesmanship". As most of you will know, this is the art of gaining advantage over an opponent without actually cheating. It takes place in all sports and is frequently found to be most highly developed among those participating at lower levels - F.P. 4th XV's and among the 'also-rans' in cross country for instance.

Perhaps not an easy subject in which to give instruction because the best examples are often the result of spontaneous reaction to a situation by some quick-witted individual. (e.g. The Border scrum-half who wandered away from the base of a scrum in the gathering gloom of an autumn evening, and it was only when he was seen to produce the ball from under his jersey to score the winning try that the opposition realised he was not sloping off for an early bath.)

A lot can be achieved, however, by unsettling an opponent, particularly immediately prior to the start of an event and it is here, I think, the more devious amongst you could gain an edge. Think of the effect a remark like 'I hear this wind's to freshen to force 5 in about half-an-hour' has on the more timorous at the start of an L.D. Or, 'Is that paddle split?' as the starter gives the 'ready' for a sprint. If you are careful to phrase your remark as a question or preface it with 'I think.....' there can be no come back afterwards. You were only asking or it only looked as if his spray deck was 'coming off at the back' or whatever. Strategically positioned on the bank at a slalom, a shout of 'hard luck, mate' as a competitor cleans a gate may cause a judge to think he's missed a touch and mark accordingly and should surely make the paddler lose concentration for a moment which could prove decisive.

While the true 'Gamesman' would not stoop to actual sabotage - no loosening of rudder-wires or 'testing' paddles by sitting on them, there are opportunities to render an opponents equipment less effective or his life less comfortable. Can he help it, for instance, if his hands are all greasy as he obligingly passes you your paddles? And how was he to know the Cag he offered you a loan of was full of glass matt strands?

It pays to scrutinise race corrections most carefully as your interpretation of them can occasionally be used to your advantage. For instance, there was the time the crafty K2 crew portaged the weir as instructed - and about two miles of the river - by making a dash of a few hundred yards through the streets of Irvine. These directions have since been amended to preclude this, but it is the sort of opportunity the more astute among you should be on the alert for.

Finally, let me emphasize that 'gamesmanship' must be within the rules. Each discipline of canoe sport is governed by it's laws, offenders against which are rightly penalised. 'Gamesmanship' is not about attempting to break these rules.

T.D.W.

FOR SALE

KLEPPER T-9 single-seater foldaway kayak,  
perfect condition, telephone 036-981-230  
A.D.B. Wylie, O'erthe Hilltae, Ardentinny,  
Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8TR.

## SOCIAL - PERSONAL &amp; OTHERWISE

\*\*\*\*\*

The Kindergarten section of our Club continues to grow and we are happy to announce the latest member's arrival on 20th March, 1981..... Emma Susan Ramage, a daughter for Sylvia and Scott Ramage and a wee sister for young Stewart. Many will have already met this charming young lady as she was one of the prime exhibits at the Scottish Canoe Exhibition.

\*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*

Jackie and Richard McCurdie, two of our hardy members until recently, have swapped their wet suits for riding habits and have been selected to perform the high function of the Penicuik Hunter and his Lass at the Huntsman's Festival in June. Our congratulations to them both.

\*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*

The Scottish Canoe Exhibition Questionnaire brings out the information that 97% of those who completed it claimed to be canoeists but only 44% said they were members of the Scottish Canoe Association. If this is an accurate indication of the general situation it is time something was done about it and you, my reader, are the one to do it by spreading the gospel of the value of S.C.A. membership among your pals. It will sound more convincing if you are a member yourself, of course.

\*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*

One of our young members Margaret Williamson, features on a page of the Lothian & Border Police Magazine's last issue, but not in any criminal capacity we would hasten to add. The photograph shows her sitting in the new "Stallion" canoe which she won in last year's Leukaemia run on the Tay.

\*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*

Because of their irresponsible conduct at the campsite during the last Comrie Slalom, two of the paddlers, William Wilson from Stirling, and his pal Brian Boyle who is not recorded as a S.C.A. member - have both been suspended for one year from all canoe competition. Neither are in the top flight of canoeists but events organisers may care to note the names for future reference.

\*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*

Something to anticipate with interest this summer is the return to the racing scene of Alistair and Marianne Wilson. Besides being the proprietors of Lendal Products, Alistair and Marianne each have a distinguished competition history, having paddled for Britain at the highest level. Both are ex-National Champions and Olympic team members. On the last occasion that Alistair took his racing paddles "off the shelf" (1977), he won the British 10,000 metres title - can we hope for a repeat performance this year? Maybe not, but we look forward to seeing them in action. And hoping to add to the family honours, Andrea, the oldest of their children, makes her debut in Espada 'A' events this year.

\*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*                    \*\*\*

It will be interesting to see who turns up at the Coach Training and Assessment Course at Glenmore Lodge from 1st to 8th August. If they are as responsible and knowledgeable as would-be coaches should be surely they should be involved with the running of the Commonwealth events, the biggest occasion in our Scottish Canoeing history. The late arrangement of this course seems to verge on the irresponsible, when the whole reputation of the S.C.A. and Scottish canoeing in general hangs by a thread at Grandtully and Strathclyde.

GRANDTULLY W/W RACE - 15th MARCH 1981Summary of Results

| <u>MEN'S K1 Div A (41 entered)</u> |            |         | <u>MEN'S K1 Div B (24 entered)</u> |             |         |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------|------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1. J. Dunseath                     | Leamington | 16-37.7 | 1. Neil Baxter                     | FORTH       | 17-32.4 |
| 2. D. Taylor                       | Gateshead  | 16-37.8 | 2. K. Bain                         | Strathclyde | 18-25.0 |
| 3. M. Smith                        | Leeds      | 16-51.5 | 3. A. Meikle                       | Strathclyde | 18-29.5 |
| 7. K. Fraser                       | Roxburgh   | 17-08.6 | 4. S. Ramage                       | FORTH       | 18-36.1 |
| 14. A. Morton                      | FORTH      | 17-35.8 | 8. P. Easson                       | FORTH       | 19-01.1 |
| 23. D. Wolfe                       | FORTH      | 19-12.4 | 10. M. Forde                       | FORTH       | 19-09.4 |

LADIES' K1 Div A/B (10 entered)

|                 |             |         |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| 1. A. Gillespie | Grappenhall | 19-10.0 |
| 2. L. Morrison  | FORTH       | 19-31.5 |
| 3. G. Robbie    | Stirling    | 19-47.8 |

SCOTTISH W/W CHAMPIONSHIPS - GRANDTULLY 15/3/81MEN'S K1

|              |          |         |
|--------------|----------|---------|
| 1. K. Fraser | Roxburgh | 17-08.6 |
| 2. N. Baxter | FORTH    | 17-32.4 |
| 3. A. Morton | FORTH    | 17-35.8 |

LADIES' K1

|                     |           |         |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| 1. L. Morrison      | FORTH     | 19-31.5 |
| 2. G. Robbie        | Stirling  | 19-47.8 |
| 3. D. Riddell-Black | Str'clyde | 21-03.2 |

~~~~~

THE AWE WEEKEND4/5th April

As far as the opening Marathon of the season is concerned, perhaps the least said the better. Due to an ill-advised last minute change of venue, it seems likely that the race will not be of ranking status this year. Not that that will make a lot of difference since only eleven paddlers appeared for the start when eventually it took place on Loch Etive. A bit of a non-event with which to start the season.

Sunday's W.W.R. attracted a larger but by no means full entry.

Highlight of the weekend was the performance of Kenny Fraser who won both events by the proverbial street. He really is going well whatever he is being fuelled on down there in Hawick. (We wish he'd pass on the secret to his local 'Greens' - with no apologies to readers in Gala or Goldenacre!)

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CANAL/KELVIN MARATHON - 11th April 1981

It's a pity that the large entry for this event consisted mainly of Division 4 paddlers. The other divisions got some unexpected excitement when they were confronted with a tripper-laden barge filling the bend just after the start. Some ingenious methods of coping with the long portage were in evidence, a set of wheels being worth a couple of places on occasion. Overall winner, John Adair of Irvine finished an impressive two minutes ahead of the field and the other Divisions were won as follows - if memory serves correct, for no result sheet has materialised as yet from Glasgow Kayak Club.

|            |                |           |
|------------|----------------|-----------|
| Division 2 | Peter Easson   | FORTH     |
| 3          | George Logie   | FORTH     |
| 5          | Alison Edwards | Kirkcaldy |

TWEED L.D. RESULTS3rd May

Though not blessed with the best of weather, it was nevertheless an enjoyable event, thanks mainly to the absence of many of the hard paddlers who were away looking for points at other events! The race reverted back more to its original purpose of providing an introduction to beginners - of any age!

| <u>Div 1 K1 Men</u> | <u>Walkerburn Start</u> | <u>Div IV</u>  | <u>Fairnilee Start</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. A. Murray        | RWSABC 1.44.02          | 1. R. Christie | Scouts 47.54           |
| 2. A. Davidson      | KCC 1.50.12             | 2. B. Scott    | Rox. 51.30             |
| 3. R. Bell          | Tross. 1.56.24          | 3. B. Titus    | FORTH 55.20            |

| <u>Div 2 K1 Men</u> |               | <u>LADIES</u>    |               |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. J. Knox          | Rox. 1.45.12  | 1. D. Mills      | KCC 50.50     |
| 2. G. Logie         | FORTH 1.50.19 | 2. M. Williamson | FORTH 1.05.18 |
| 3. E. Davidson      | KCC 2.03.59   |                  |               |

| <u>Doubles</u>            |                         | <u>YOUTH</u>   |               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. A. Denny/<br>P. Easson | RWSABC<br>FORTH 1.36.23 | 1. D. Newport  | FORTH 56.45   |
| 2. M. Forde/<br>G. Wilson | FORTH 1.40.37           | 2. G. Moffat   | FORTH 59.40   |
|                           |                         | 3. I. Sinclair | FORTH 1.01.26 |

| <u>JUVENILE</u> |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. S. Munro     | Compass 1.09.47 |
| 2. G. Mackay    | KCC 1.10.20     |
| 3. C. Pickford  | Compass 1.22.07 |
| 4. D. McNicol   | Compass 1.24.43 |
| 5. D. Fraser    | Compass 1.24.47 |

Div VI Doubles Walkerburn start

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. D. Wilson / M. Wilson  | FORTH 1.04.58   |
| 2. F. Smeaton / L. Bryce  | KCC 1.09.08     |
| 3. J. Cuthbert / K. Munro | Compass 1.19.49 |
| 4. J. Munro / L. Fraser   | Compass 1.24.46 |

| <u>CHALLENGE TROPHY</u> |    |                 |    |           |    |
|-------------------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------|----|
| 1. FORTH                | 62 | 2. KIRKCALDY CC | 28 | 3. RWSABC | 20 |
| 4. ROXBURGH             | 17 | 5. COMPASS      | 14 | 6. SCOUTS | 10 |
| 7. TROSSACHS            | 5  |                 |    |           |    |

FOR SALE

HUNTER K1 RACING KAYAK

Good Condition.

First offer of £60 secures.

Contact: David Wolfe,  
4, West Clifton Cottages  
East Calder,  
West Lothian.

Telephone: 031-333-3836

Readers will notice that this is a bumper issue of KAYAK, having an extra page. The abundance of material received was due to the absence of S.C.A.N.

COMMODORE'S COMMENT

It seems like a long time ago that we went down to Meadowbank Stadium for the third Scottish Canoe Exhibition, though on checking the calendar it was only some six weeks ago. Once again Forth CC was the only Club to have a booth. Surely it is time that one or two other central Scotland Clubs made some effort to publicise their existence. Our experience shows that we not only provide a focus for our members to gather and exchange experiences, but that there are several people living not only in our area, but in outlying districts who have been looking out for a canoe club to join. Perhaps Ron Day will run a 'Best Club Booth' competition for the next show in March '82. In any case, a hearty slap on the back for Ron for another successful event, which was well organised and clearly improving each year as all the little details are ironed out in response to constructive criticisms.

/                      /                      /                      /                      /

There must be several thousand paddlers who have benefited over the years from the use of the water and the organised events at Grandtully and elsewhere. Now that the S.C.A. has finalised purchase of a large campsite and base there, the very least we can all do is to turn out at the organised work week-ends and in between times, to help with whatever skills we have. Many of us have taken advantage of the few stalwarts whose considerable work has contributed to our enjoyment in the past, and it is time we all responded by an immediate summoning of the Clans to make our National Slalom and Whitewater Centre into a development we can all be proud to use for generations.

Remember that your bare hands are not very useful in themselves. Bring whatever tools you have. Landscaping needs shovels, forks and wheelbarrows. To fit windows and doors needs joinery tools. Sparks need screwdrivers, plumbers need pipecutters, but most of all we need you all together to show George Clelland and Geoff Hatfield that we really appreciate the efforts they have made on our behalf.

So come along for the weekend of 6/7th June ready to do some work to make Grandtully a name we can really put on the map. Why not organise a group with a specific object, like getting the windows re-glazed on the cottage; give Morag Boyd (tel.067 483-227) a call and check exactly what your task will be. Bring the materials (expenditure will be refunded by arrangement with the treasurer) and having set your group a target for the weekend, let's get on with the job in time for the Commonwealth events in August. Bring your friends with you, especially if they have any tradesman's skills.

RKR

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION  
 @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Dig out the Box Brownie, dust down the telephoto, pop the instamatic in your pocket and go forth. There will be plenty of action in the canoeing world this year and we are running a competition for everyone, no matter what type or standard of photographer you are.

The competition will be in three categories which must all depict canoeing:

- a) Best action picture
- b) Best family/recreational picture
- c) Best reflective picture

Suitable prizes will be awarded for the first three in each category.

The rules are simple:

- a) Pictures must not be smaller than 6" x 4" and not larger than 12" x 10".
- b) Each picture must have the entrants name and address and category entered for printed clearly on the back.
- c) No photograph will be returned and they may be used by the Scottish Canoe Association in future publication without claim by the entrants.
- d) The judges decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- e) Winning photographs will be displayed at the 1982 Canoe Exhibition.

ALL ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO: Mrs. Margaret Winter,  
 Scottish Canoe Association  
 18, Ainslie Place,  
 EDINBURGH, EH3 6AU

NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER, 1981.

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COMMENT

One can't help feeling that to ask for volunteers to come and judge at the important Commonwealth Slalom (see page 5) is asking for trouble and could quite likely precipitate an international crisis of sorts.

Judges for a slalom of this standing should be hand-picked, put through a strict judging course and then operate as a group at the remaining competitions. Two judges should be at each point during these practice runs so that difficult decisions can be talked out. It is advisable to write down the circumstances if a penalty is marked against any of these top class slalomists in order to settle the argument that will inevitably follow.

The success of a slalom competition at any level depends on accurate and consistent judging. Remember Jonquiere when Albert Kerr was 'judged' out of a medal.

Now that the exhibition is over and I have been able to start unwinding, I thought I should jot down some of the points I noticed and hopefully draw your comments.

First: To those of you who were asked to fill in our questionnaire at the door - to the large majority - thank you for your tolerance and help; to the minority - I hope your manners improve. Questionnaires only give a guide as to how things are going, and help one decide if one is doing the right thing.

Second: I was amazed at some of the bargains to be had and, with the savings available I do not understand why more canoeists do not attend the exhibition. A few examples were: Trylon: no delivery charge on orders taken at the exhibition. P. & H.: apart from saving pounds on a paddle you saved £4.50 carriage as well. McNulty Seaglass: were selling boats at knock down prices and most other manufacturers were keenly priced.

Third: The finish and colour schemes now available in canoes are attractive. The boat which took my eye was on the Wye Canoe stand - the black sprint boat with the gold coach line. Probably a sign of age because I still remember highly polished black cars gleaming in the sunlight.....oh nostalgia.....

Fourth: I was a trifle disappointed that not many stands had those odds and ends that you know you need but always forget, such as: brass wing nuts and bolts, nylon line, toggles, neoprene cuffs, or cement etc.....

Fifth: The films and talks were well supported and I believe very interesting. I regret one talk had to be cancelled as the speaker failed to turn up. If you came specially to hear this talk please accept my apologies.

Sixth: The portable heaters installed for the films and lectures certainly made that area more comfortable as I trust did the extra heaters in the main concourse.

Seventh: "Miss Lothian" graced many of the stands for photographs on the Saturday morning and drew the winning raffle tickets for us, the results of which will be found below.

Eighth: It is a sad fact that not all canoeists support the exhibition for one reason or another, but with economics the way they are, you can save money by buying at the exhibition, examine goods by taking delivery at the exhibition, meet old friends, reminisce and on the whole make it quite a social occasion.

Ninth: Thanks to the organisers of the Bat Polo and the disco on the Saturday evening of the exhibition. Well done! a nice piece of initiative and a good boost to the weekend.

Finally: To everyone who assisted me in putting the whole thing together - Thank you for your support and assistance and for putting up with me during my more tiresome moments. To everyone who came along, thank you for your attendance and I hope you enjoyed it. Please come back again and bring a friend in '82.

#### RAFFLE PRIZE-WINNERS

- 1st prize        Joyce Nichol, Springwood, Victoria Crescent, Selkirk.  
 2nd prize        James Buchan, 18 Churchill Court, Aberfeldy.  
 Others: Ann Spinks, 67 Craigend Road, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.  
           Jane Pinkerton, 33 Gartmore Road, Paisley.  
           Alison Stewart, 12 Coneyhill Road, Bridge of Allan.  
           C. Jamieson, 7 Letham Road, Dunbar, East Lothian.  
           Stewart Armstrong, Lagganlia Outdoor Centre, Kincaig.  
           Robin Campbell, 19 Black Lebanon, Cupar, Fife.  
           Louise Rothnie, 2, Langstoun Crescent, Galashiels.  
           Ann Platton, 15 Loanburn Avenue, Penicuik.  
           John Mould, The Shed, Milnefield Avenue, Elgin.  
           Colin Ritchie, 20 Oswald Avenue, Grangemouth.  
           Steve Cowan, 4, Randolph Street, Cowdenbeath.

## COMING EVENTS

1981JUNEOrganisers

|      |                                            |    |
|------|--------------------------------------------|----|
| 6th  | Kirkcaldy Regatta - Lochore Meadows        | 15 |
| 7th  | Lubnaig Marathon                           | 2  |
| 13th | Rowardennan Regatta                        | 22 |
| 14th | Leukaemia L.D. & Sponsored Paddle - R. Tay | 7  |
| 20th | Loch Lomond Marathon                       | 25 |
| 28th | Loch Ken Marathon                          | 32 |

JULY

|               |                                                                                  |    |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 5th           | Kirkcaldy - Burntisland Marathon                                                 | 15 |
| 6 - 11th      | Western Isles Surf Week : Surf Competition on<br>7/8th at Valtos, Isle of Lewis. | 38 |
| 15th-18th     | World W/W Racing Championships - Bala, N. Wales                                  |    |
| 21st-24th     | World Slalom Championships - Bala                                                |    |
| 29th-2nd Aug. | World Sprint Racing Championships - Nottingham.                                  |    |

AUGUST

|           |                                                             |    |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1st-8th   | Coach Training & Assessment - Glenmore Lodge                |    |
| 5th-6th   | Commonwealth W/W Championships, Grandtully                  | 10 |
| 8th-9th   | Commonwealth Slalom Championships - Grandtully              | 10 |
| 8th-9th   | Commonwealth Sprint Racing Championships - Strathclyde Park | 10 |
| 15th-16th | Fairmilee Slalom 4-N-J-Scot.Can.                            | 13 |
| 22nd      | Tail o' the Bank Marathon                                   | 6  |
| 23rd      | Surf Competition - Montrose : Beginners welcome             | 26 |
| 29th      | Irvine Regatta                                              | 32 |
| 30th      | Irvine Marathon                                             | 32 |

ORGANISERS

|    |                                                                                            |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | A. Samuel, Auchengillan, Blanefield, Glasgow, G63 9AU                                      |
| 6  | R.W.S.A.B.C., Canoe Convener, Clubhouse, Esplanade, Greenock                               |
| 7  | D. Wolfe, 4, West Clifton Cottages, East Calder, EH53 OHT.                                 |
| 10 | S.C.A. General Secretary, 18, Ainslie Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6AU                            |
| 13 | A. Torrance, 4, Ladylands Drive, Selkirk.                                                  |
| 15 | C. Gardiner, 22, Townsend Crescent, Kirkcaldy.                                             |
| 22 | A. McDonald, 19, Loskin Drive, Glasgow,                                                    |
| 25 | A. Manzie, P.E. Dept., Strathclyde University Sports Centre,<br>Cathedral Street, Glasgow. |
| 26 | G. Thomson, Linlithgow Outdoor Centre, Linlithgow                                          |
| 32 | S. Murphy, Auchenhavrie Place, Stevenson, Ayrshire.                                        |
| 38 | John Mould, 12, Milnfield Avenue, Elgin.                                                   |

FOR SALE

Lo-Line Lancer K1. Sandwich construction,  
understern rudder. Less than 1 year old  
and in excellent condition. ... £190.  
Contact Harold Young. Tel.No. 0592 4493

SCOTTISH SPRINT REGATTA - STRATHCLYDE PARK - 10th MAY 1981

The large turnout, despite the poor weather, was heartening and some of the events had to have heats to cope with the numbers.

This year's Men's champion was Gilbert Speirs who, although a member of Irvine C.C., now lives in Nottingham and came up specially for the event. He won both the 1,000m and 500m Open events. Lynda Morrison, from Forth, won the ladies event and looks to have a promising future in racing.

Of particular interest this year was the large entry of K4s in the last event of the day, the 10,000m event. This is a six mile race round the loch with the boats racing alongside one another, three times round the loch. Seven crews entered and the start must have looked impressive from the bank. The best paddlers were evenly dispersed through all the boats and this made for a far more exciting race. Hopefully, this will be repeated again next year, because there is nothing more boring than the four best paddlers getting together to produce an unbeatable crew. Sadly, Forth C.C. were not well enough organised to field a crew on the water although they could easily have put together a fast crew with Pete Easson, David Wolfe, Neil Baxter and Andy Morton. All the aforementioned paddled, but in different boats. Andy was the lucky one, having elected to paddle with the W.W. Committee boat of Fraser, Liddon and Gardiner. This crew not only won the 1,000m event, but went on to win the 10,000m race by a narrow margin in a very exciting race.

The Sprint Committee have to be congratulated on what was a successful day in which many Mums and Dads did much to contribute to a smoothly organised event.

WHITE WATER RANKING SYSTEM

Ranking lists tend to be rather meaningless documents, often reflecting attendance at events rather than ability. For the uninitiated their workings are described below:

If there are, for example, ten events in the season, competitors' best five or six results are taken and points awarded accordingly, usually on a 50, 49, 48 basis for each race. The five sets of points are added up and the competitor with the highest total is the "best" paddler for that season. For the best reasons in the world, many paddlers are unable to attend five events and consequently do not attain their maximum pointage. For example, many of our Scottish events coincide with major events south of the border and our top competitors attend these events, thereby losing the chance of valuable points for the Scottish ranking table.

To try to ensure the Scottish Ranking list becomes a more meaningful document, the W.W. Committee is investigating a computerised system which will rank a competitor in a fairly accurate position even if that competitor only attends one event in the season. Moreover, the computer will take into account not only the position attained in any race, but also the time behind the winner. This allows for differences between well attended events and poorly attended events, the latter being used by some to gain easy points! Built into the system will be a small bonus system to credit those who attend five or more events and perform well in all; after all, a lucky first place in a poorly attended event is not so good as five third places in well attended events.

The committee doesn't claim originality in this idea; Melvin Swallow of the British W.W. Team wrote about a similar system in a recent edition of W.W. magazine. However, we hope that by writing a computer programme, the whole calculation business will be made a lot more simple.

COMMONWEALTH WHITE WATER TEAM SELECTION

Two teams of Senior, Junior and Ladies will be selected. One on the basis of the past year's results, and the other from the results of a special selection event to be organised at Grandtully on 12th July 1981.

So the official organ of the S.C.A. has ceased to play and the organ grinder has ground to a halt.

There will be no issue of SCAN this quarter because the Editor was left high and dry without any contributions being sent in for publication.

It seems incredible, however, that 1200 canoeists will not know the reason why or wherefore of the forthcoming Commonwealth events; the progress of the Grandtully development; the latest opinions on modern canoe design and equipment gleaned from the Canoe Exhibition; informed comment on the behaviour of some canoeists at events and its effect on the standing of the S.C.A., as well as reports on coaching activities and financial problems. The list of what could fill an issue of S.C.A.N. seems endless but open appeals for contributions are futile especially if long articles are asked for. Surely the Editor must know that long winded contributions are not acceptable to canoeists of today.

An Editor should sit down with his committee and discuss the contents of the issue. He should plan out who are the people most likely to provide the answers. They should then all be contacted personally, or 'phoned or written to, outlining what he wants, how it should be treated and told that no contribution should exceed a full page of typed A4.

Properly captioned photographs, tables of statistics, sketches etc. can be used to fill the gaps in the printed material.

It is helpful if he can find a humorist and/or cartoonist and a "poet". The personal touch is the only way.

If some unsolicited contribution comes in, then that is a bonus.

It would be a terrible blot on our escutcheon if in this "The Year of the Canoe" we failed to produce a magazine for our members.

It is to be hoped that the matter will be fully discussed in high places and a solution found. We can admire Andrew's valiant effort, but even the best of us require co-operation and a viable editorial policy.

S.C.A.N. must be the voice of the S.C.A. even though it has been muted so far. The Committee will have to find a way to make it sound loud and clear.

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#### "STILL WATERS RUN DEEP"

New reservoirs usually mean less river water somewhere, but the new Megget Reservoir will increase flows in the upper Tweed in three years' time. For the past few years Edinburgh's water supply has been augmented by pumping from the Tweed, but this will cease when the new reservoir comes on stream. Of course, Yarrow Water will be reduced by a similar amount, so there should be no difference below Fairniee once the new reservoir has filled. (W.W. Mag.)

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N.B. SCAN LATEST : Since the above was written, the Committee have discussed the matter fully and decided that S.C.A.N. will re-appear in August.

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR SALE: LENDAL L/D MASTER PADDLE

Fibre-glass shaft - right hand grip  
Asymetric wooden blades

Has never been used ... £15.00

Contact: Susan E.H. Gibson, 48 Craigmount Brae,  
Edinburgh. Telephone 031-339-3042

## COMMONWEALTH EVENTS PROGRAMME 1981

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To be televised

AUGUST

|               |          |                                     |
|---------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 4th   | 1500 hrs | Team Leaders' Meeting at Grandtully |
|               | 1900 "   | Opening Ceremony at Aberfeldy       |
| Wednesday 5th | 1900 "   | W/W Race - Individual               |
| Thursday 6th  | 1000 "   | W/W Race - Team                     |
|               | 1600 "   | Prize Giving                        |
|               | 1900 "   | Paddlers Reception - Aberfeldy      |
| Friday 7th    | p.m.     | Slalom Practice                     |
|               | 1900 "   | Team Leaders' Meeting & Reception   |
| Saturday 8th  | 0900 "   | Slalom - Individual                 |
| Sunday 9th    | 0900 "   | Slalom - Team                       |
|               | 1500 "   | Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony.  |
| Monday 10th   |          | Open Tour - Campsie Linn to Perth   |

The programme above is not a thing that just happens, it has to be made to happen, which explains why so much is written elsewhere in this magazine about help from all canoeists being essential at Grandtully before, during and after the event.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Trials (and Tribulations) for British Team Selection

Jock and Bluebell took part in the first selection event on 2-3rd May at the Tryweryn but only managed 4th place.

Two weeks later at the second selection event they were lying last after the first run, with two 50's. Their second run, however, was so fast that they could afford 3 touches and a roll above the finish line and still win the C2 event.

In the K1 class, Richard Fox won convincingly and is definitely in World Class form. 2nd place was taken by our old Scottish stalwart, Jim Dolan, who is now resident in England. After many early successes Jim has been in the competition doldrums in recent years but this result jumps him right back into contention for a World place.

After the final selection event on 17-18th May, the following Scottish paddlers were invited to join the British team in Czechoslovakia and Poland:

Jock and Bluebell; Kathy McLeod; Susan Ward; Mark Lane and Chris Lees. It was most unfortunate that Jock and Bluebell were forced to decline as it was not possible for Jock to get leave of absence.

MONSCHAU INTERNATIONAL WHITE WATER RACE 25-27 APRIL, 1981.

SCOTTISH TEAM: Kenny Fraser, Alan Eastwood, Tim Liddon, Paul Gardiner and Lynda Morrison.

The Team travelled down to Hull to catch the Thursday night ferry to Rotterdam, however 'delays' en route meant a very close-shave, arriving just before the ship sailed, and a crewman casually informed us "If this was a train you'd have missed it"! North Sea Ferries can be congratulated on their feeding arrangements, and we made sure that we ate our money's worth. The journey through Holland was uneventful and we arrived in Monschau at mid-day, ready for a light training session. The river was severely lacking in water and over abundant in rocks, so we decided to go to a nearby reservoir. Unfortunately, it did not take long before a German fisherman informed us that the reservoir was drinking water and this was not ver botin' but verboten. However, there was another larger reservoir nearby, but we could not reach this due to another irate forester - it was not the coach! So we settled for a run down beside the river back to Monschau.

Saturday morning was spent fixing 'grunch' pads (heater hose noses - first class for rocky races) in anticipation. A Dutchman decided to film the Scottish team preparing for this big event - this caused a certain amount of ribald comment. We then walked the course trying to imagine what it would be like when the water was released. Decisions were further complicated by only one practice run being possible when the water was eventually turned on. A lot of lines were in question and the lack of water for practice meant racing blind and making instant decisions, which were often hard on the boats.

The course was between  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and 4 miles of continuous white water punctuated by a series of steep weirs with artificial shoots. Most of these weirs could be shot with relative ease and great speed due to the fast current, however the last weir had no obvious route and proved to be hard on the boats. The bottom half of the course ran through the town of Monschau and a good crowd lined the river cheering and lifting the paddlers.

On Sunday the weather turned becoming cold and overcast, to which the team were far more accustomed. It was then that Paul revealed he had taken his ears off! Lynda was the first to go, together with the G.B. Ladies. However, she struck one of the low bridges on the upper stretch of the course losing her paddle. Paul had the misfortune to be placed behind Jerry Hibble and only saw 30 seconds of the back of the new boat. Despite having no-one to chase, Paul had a good run managing to gain a creditable 58th place in his first international.

Tim paddled well, catching and passing British squad member Steve Daniels on his run and gained 40th place. The event was more like a domestic Scottish race with all of us going off in succession at 30 second intervals. Alan and Kenny were at the end of the group and continually swapped places down the course, Kenny sadly getting spun out at the bottom weir. Alan finished 45th and Kenny was placed 29th.

The race was a good advertisement for G.B. and Baron canoes with Jerry Hibble dominating the event, a clear 28 seconds win, with the new Baron racer designed for the Trywerwyn World Championships in July. This result shows what can be done with the combination of skill, fitness and a good boat - something for us all to strive after.

\*\*\*\*\*

WANTED

K4 - Any condition - Any price.

Does anyone know where one can get such a craft?

Please contact urgently: Alan Meikle,

9, Balmoral Gardens, Brightons, Falkirk.

This was to be the only chance foreign competitors were to have to paddle on the river before the World Championships in July and it was pleasing to see a good entry from abroad. The French were there in force as were the Swiss, West Germans and Irish. There were also small parties from Norway (including Einar Kjerschow), New Zealand and America.

The individual event was held on the Saturday afternoon and the surprise news circulating was that Jean-Pierre Burny of Belgium, the current World Champion had got a late entry and would be starting in the top position after Jerry Hibble. The Tryweryn went on to prove just how difficult a river it can be, Burny capsized at the bottom weir on the slalom site, failed to roll and finished well down the results sheet.

Hibble went on to win by a margin of 23 secs from Dave Taylor. Bob Campbell could have taken second place but a capsize and roll at the bottom of the "chicken shoot" just 400 meters from the finish lost him a few vital seconds and he took third place.

Overall, Britain did well in the kayak classes, but the Canadian classes were dominated by the French. Obviously this event should be a good guide for the World Championships and therefore Britain should do well in the kayak classes.

Jerry Hibble appears to be uncatchable, winning all events by a very large margin, but there could be an interesting struggle for the other places in the British team. Competition for the C2 class appears to be fierce with some of last year's crews making a late return to form. The British team is to be selected at the Tryweryn event on the 13th/14th June and things could well change a lot in the space of the next month.

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Equipment Review - White Water Racers

D. Wolfe

With the World Championships now less than two months away, the major manufacturers have now produced their new designs for use on the Tryweryn. All of the manufacturers are playing safe, by letting their new boats be tested prior to the event to iron out any possible bugs rather than risk a first showing on the day of the event.

All of the designers must be thinking in a similar manner as all of the boats appear to have the same design concept. The boats are lower in volume than produced over the past few years and a great deal of emphasis appears to have been placed on the design of the foredeck in an attempt to produce a design which sheds the water very well.

BARON. New boat called the 'Marlin'. Paddled to victory by Jerry Hibble at Monschau and the first two Tryweryn races. Obviously a development of the 'Machete' with a sharper bow and a stern very similar to modern racing K1's. Hopefully this stern will prove to be less prone to damage than that of the 'Machete'. The Marlin has a lower volume than the Machete but the foredeck is sectioned to shed the water very quickly. The hull length is somewhat similar to the Machete so it is to be expected that the Marlin will be slightly faster yet retain good handling and turning. Possibly better for the lighter paddler than the Machete.

GAYBO/PRIJON. Boats from Prijon have been now available on the Continent for a few months and the first ones from Gaybo should be available shortly. Looks like a further development of the Delphin 81 although slightly lower in volume. No reports available yet on speed and performance.

CANOE CENTRE - A welcome return to W.W. boat manufacture by the Canoe Centre after many years of absence. Their new boat has the uninspired name of River Racer 81, however first reports indicate that the boat performs well. The boat is reputed to be fast on the flat and yet still retain good manoeuvrability. The design of the foredeck does not look as refined as the Baron or Prijon boats. The boat is well built and if sensibly priced could sell well.

As with all new models, the manufacturers have made this an excuse to raise their prices. The price being asked for a Baron Marlin seems very hard to justify and makes River Racing a very expensive sport to participate in. We can only hope that more manufacturers selling well designed well built boats will bring prices down to levels more in line with other canoes.

If you are looking for a second hand boat, this should be a good time as the top paddlers dispose of their "old" designs and switch to the new ones.

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| <u>RESULTS</u>              | <u>THE AWE SLALOM</u> | <u>23rd/24th MAY</u> |                                    |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Div 2 MEN</u>            |                       |                      | <u>Div 2 TEAMS</u>                 |
| 1. I.(S.J.)Anderson: Perth: | 177                   |                      | 1. Brown/Bownes/Eydemann           |
| 2. K. Brown E.U.C.C.        | 178                   |                      | <u>Div 3 TEAMS</u>                 |
| 3. K. Markham Y Leeds       | 187                   |                      | 1. McLintock/Smalley/Leaver        |
| <u>Div 2 LADIES</u>         |                       |                      | <u>Div 2 C1</u>                    |
| 1. S. Malone Wallace HS     | 291                   |                      | 1. D. Hamilton Uddingston          |
| <u>Div 3 MEN</u>            |                       |                      | 216                                |
| 1. R. Webster Dundee WW     | 209                   |                      | <u>Div 2 C2</u>                    |
| 2. P. McClintock Y Leeds    | 215                   |                      | 1. Ross/Ross Dundee Uni.           |
| 3. P. Darbyshire Y Dales    | 218                   |                      | 298                                |
| <u>Div 3 LADIES</u>         |                       |                      | <u>Div 3 C1</u>                    |
| 1. S. Horrocks Caldercruix  | 249                   |                      | 1. J. Ross Dundee Uni.             |
|                             |                       |                      | 278                                |
| <u>JUDGES</u>               |                       |                      | <u>Div 2 C2</u>                    |
| 1. N. Baxter Forth CC       | 158                   |                      | 1. Abercromby/McMorris Glasgow Uni |
| 2. S. Ramage Forth CC       | 169                   |                      | 311                                |
| 1st LADY Jane Wilson Forth  | 202                   |                      |                                    |

The weekend of 23/24th May saw the welcome return of slalom canoeists to the River Awe, a much loved event which has sadly been missing for several years, and also of Forth Canoe Club to slalom organisation.

Although on Saturday the river was low, for Sunday's individual competitions it reached an almost perfect level giving the 90 competitors an event we will long remember.

For this, our thanks must go to the Hydro Board.

The few organisation problems were overshadowed by the superb course which was voted a complete success by all who competed. Surely in years to come the Awe Slalom will again be a major attraction to British canoeists.

Brian Chapman.

MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on TUESDAY 14th APRIL at  
24, Hartington Place, EDINBURGH.

PRESENT: K. Riddell, A. Williamson, D. Wilson, B. Chapman,  
M. Myles and D. Wolfe.

APOLOGIES: were received from R. Gregory and S. Balfour.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the programme of events for the summer months and organise a coaching structure within this programme of events.

1. CRAIGLOCKHART Starting date, Monday 27th April. Our booking had been confirmed and arrangements would be as for last year. A current F.C.C. membership card would be required to obtain a locker key. No cars to be allowed into the lower car park even for delivering or uplifting of canoes. The management of Craiglockhart had requested that we take every possible step to prevent mud and water from dripping on to the floor in the entry hall. Those with their own paddles should bring them along.

Craiglockhart is to provide training from a very basic level. More experienced persons attending would be expected to take part in canoe polo or in coaching beginners. A limited number of Espadas and White Water racers would also be available for people to gain experience in these. Miles Forde (Club Coach) had undertaken to be present almost every week and would be giving coaching to beginners. D. Wolfe and D. Wilson would be present as often as possible and would deal with collection of money etc. Scott Balfour would attend occasionally and would carry out star tests and proficiencies. The following provisional dates had been agreed.

|                  |      |             |
|------------------|------|-------------|
| Monday, 1st June | .... | Star Test   |
| Monday 15th June | .... | Proficiency |

Further details would be announced on the notice board at Craiglockhart.

2. TOURING Richard Gregory planned to organise a series of trips every Wednesday evening on the Forth starting from the Compass Centre, Granton, at 6.30 p.m. weather permitting. These would commence on the 22nd of April. In the event of bad weather there was plenty of glass fibre work to be done. Boats from the Compass Centre would be available. These trips were intended for paddlers of a reasonably strong and competent standard. Mat Myles expressed interest in assisting with this group.

A weekend tour on loch Sunart was planned for June and outings to Seacliff at weekends would be organised on an 'ad hoc' basis. Persons wishing further information should contact Richard Gregory.

3. THURSDAY EVENINGS Two groups would be organised on the canal; one concentrating on slalom training, the other on racing training. The group for slalom training would use the hut as a base. Supply of boats could be a problem and those with their own equipment should bring it along. A small number of club boats would be available. Brian Chapman would organise the group and other experienced slalom paddlers would be encouraged to assist. Further information can be had from Brian Chapman, 7 Greenbank Grove, Edinburgh, EH10 5ST. Tel. 447 2728.

The racing group would assemble at the canal hut and until prevented by the growth of weed, would use the section of canal out to Meggetland. Later in the year, if a large amount of weed developed, the group would travel by cars out to Sighthill/Ratho for training.

Both of these groups are intended to further develop the basic skill learned at Craiglockhart.

4. RATHO REGATTA The Ratho Union Canal Society would be organising a mini-regatta on the 26th of April. The club had been approached to see if we would attend and also to see if we could give assistance with the organisation. Arrangements were made to attend the event with a group meeting earlier on the /

the morning of the event to erect the Bat Polo goals at Craiglockhart.

5. AWE SLALOM Brian Chapman reported on the organisation of the above event. A water release had been assured and all matters were in hand.

6. RACING VESTS AND SWEATSHIRTS Alastair Williamson has purchased a small supply of racing vests. These are in the club's registered colours and are intended for use at Sprint Regattas. Any person wishing to compete at Holmeypierre Pont must wear a vest. They are available from Alastair Williamson at a cost of £2. Alastair would be contacting suppliers of sweatshirts with the intention of placing an order. Persons wishing to buy sweatshirts should place an order with Alastair.

7. CANAL HUT Kelso Riddell reported on recent progress regarding grant aid for the new hut project. The Scottish Sports Council had made a promise of money provided that the local authorities matched this with a similar sum. To date money had not been forthcoming from the local authorities and there was no certainty as to when money would be available. The National Playing Fields Association had made an offer of an interest free loan for the project.

David Wolfe reported on the situation regarding the "rates" of the canal hut. The present canal hut had been re-evaluated at a much higher rateable value than previously. Attempts to have the rateable value reduced had so far proved to be fruitless as had attempts to gain discretionary rates relief. The "Regional Assessors Office" had given an indication of the rateable value expected for the new canal hut; the sum quoted represented a very significant part of the club's present income and there was some concern over this. Further efforts were to be made with respect to obtaining rates relief.

Demand for keys to the existing hut remained high and there was obviously a demand for an extension to the storage facilities. It was decided that if further grant aid was not forthcoming in the near future, then the club would proceed to erect the building and attend to the connection of the services (water, drainage, power) at a later date when further funds were available.

Kelso Riddell agreed to pursue the issue of grant aid with the local authorities.

Before closing, the meeting thanked Mrs. Riddell for the provision of the excellent refreshments.

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### COACHING/TRAINING, 1981.

The arrangements for this year are detailed below. All club members are welcome to attend any sessions that interest them, canoes being provided where available. Preferably you should have your own paddle and buoyancy aid, and where required, a helmet.

#### BASIC SKILLS & BAT POLO

##### MONDAY EVENINGS

CRAIGLOCKHART SPORTS CENTRE

Myles Forde & David Wolfe

SEA & TOURING  
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS  
COMPASS CENTRE  
RICHARD GREGORY & MAT MYLES

SLALOM  
THURSDAY EVENINGS  
CANAL HUT  
BRIAN CHAPMAN &  
TONY LEAVER

RACING  
THURSDAY EVENINGS  
FROM CANAL HUT  
GEORGE LOGIE &  
DAVID WOLFE

BAT POLO  
INFIRMARY ST  
BATHS by  
Arrangement  
KELSO RIDDELL

SEA, LOCHS & RIVERS

RIVERS

RIVERS & STRATHCLYDE PK.

B.C.U. Star and Proficiency Tests will be conducted by Scott Balfour at intervals throughout the year.

RACING Lots going on just now for those wishing to try racing. Everything from slalom boat races to National Championships. See Competition Calendar at Craiglockhart or the Hut, and ask David, Myles or George what events would be suitable for you.

## FORTH CANOE CLUB NOTES

Subscriptions have now been due for some time. Those who have not yet paid this year's annual subscription will have received a reminder notice with this copy of KAYAK. Please settle your dues as soon as possible.

CRAIGLOCKHART The weekly sessions at Craiglockhart Sports Centre have now been running for about a month. Unfortunately the club has had to increase the weekly charge to 50p because of increases in the hire charge. Appeals against the higher charges have not met with any sympathy from Edinburgh District Council.

The Management of Craiglockhart has requested that the following procedure is adopted in order to minimise the amount of mud and water dripped from wet canoeists on to their clean floors. All persons should take a large plastic bag out to the pond. When returning to the changing rooms please use the far entrance at the steps to the top car park and remove any very wet outer garments and place them in the bag before entering the building. The Management will be inspecting the changing rooms and corridor after our departure so please co-operate and make every effort to comply with the above.

LOCKER KEYS Current F.C.C. membership cards are required to obtain a key.

### PADDLES FOR SALE

Asymmetric kit paddles for the very cheap price of £9 are available from Jack Cuthill at the Compass Centre any Wednesday evening.

### SCOTTISH SPRINT REGATTA held at Strathclyde Park on 10th May.

Forth Canoe Club was out in force and performed well. At the time of writing it is not certain how many points were gained, but we must be reasonably near the top of the table after this first event of the year. To swell the points even more, we should perhaps consider taking along some youngsters to try their hand, as Kirkcaldy did some years ago!

SLALOM - an introduction for those still thinking about it. BRIAN CHAPMAN.

With the slalom season now in full swing, it is a good time to explain the basics of this, the most spectacular of all competitive canoeing disciplines.

Slalom canoeing is a test of the competitor's ability to control his or her boat on agitated water. They must guide the canoe, or kayak down a course defined by a series of gates suspended above the river, in the shortest possible time. Each gate is numbered and consists of two poles, one green and white, the other red and white, between which the paddler's body must pass so that the red and white pole is on his left. Gates may be required to be negotiated forwards or reverse, upstream or down, in correct numerical order. A penalty of 5 seconds is added to the time for each pole a competitor touches, and 50 seconds are added for each gate missed or negotiated incorrectly. Each competitor is allowed two runs down the course with the best run counting.

Compared with other canoeing events, slalom competitions are very short, taking from about 2 or 3 minutes for a novice event and up to 4 or 5 minutes for a full Div 1 course of 30 gates. However, the high level of mental alertness as well as the sheer physical effort involved makes it just as demanding on the competitors.

The divisional ranking system is designed to enable paddlers to compete against others of a similar ability. All newcomers compete at novice events until they achieve a good enough result to gain promotion to division 4, and so on. A certain percentage of all competitors at an event are promoted into the next division at the end of the event. This is 20% for Novice to Div 4, decreasing in stages to only 5% from Div 2 to Div 1. Premier Division consists of the 60 best men at the end of each season and there is no promotion into Premier during the season. At the end of each season a few competitors who have done well during the year but have not achieved promotion, are promoted to the next division. Also at this time some competitors who have not done well during the season are demoted to make way for them.

Almost any general purpose or slalom boat can be used in the lower divisions, but to gain promotion to higher divisions a lowline boat of modern design is required. These boats have very flat hulls and rockered to allow them to turn easily. They also have low decks to enable them to pass under the poles without touching them. A good strong set of paddles is also necessary as slalom can be very tough on equipment and a broken set of paddles can lead to very embarrassing situations. Slalom paddlers also need to acquire some expertise at fibreglass repairs.

A couple of good events in the early part of the season each year for beginners are Comrie (April) and Teith (May), details of which are in the S.C.A. calander published in KAYAK. If you want to see how it really should be done, the event for Division 1 and Premier on the Easter weekend at Grandtully is a must.

In August, Scotland will be host to the Commonwealth Championships and, of course, there are the World Championships in North Wales this summer.

The attraction of slalom will be immediately obvious to any who attend an event, be it as a competitor or spectator. I can only urge you to try it once, after that you'll be hooked.

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# PADDLE POWER

LENDAL meet the needs of all canoeists from beginners to Olympic standard paddlers. They have introduced a completely new range of fibreglass bladed paddles for 1981 including the POWERMASTER. The polyester blade is of sandwich construction, giving exceptionally high strength with low weight. A completely new construction technique has been developed for this range and they can be supplied with glassfibre, carbon or alloy shaft. Asymmetric blades with stabilizing rib and contoured back, suitable for marathon, sprint, river racing, sea paddling etc. Available in safety colours for sea canoeing and can be supplied with a centre joint if required. The kit range comprises a flat and curved fibreglass blade which can be supplied separately or as an assembled paddle. In addition there is a Slalom kit paddle with multi laminate wooden blades with contoured back and PVC covered aluminium shaft. The blades can be tipped with aluminium or radiused with wooden tip. The tube can either be ovalled or plain, giving a maximum length of 212 cms. If damaged the blade can easily be replaced by post.



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