

KAYAK

MAGAZINE



November 1982

A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

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E D I T O R I A L

COMMUNICATION - a vital element in canoeing sport. This issue marks the end of nine years of continuous Forth Canoe Club magazines. In 1973 we called it 'The Forth Canoe Club Newsletter' and in 1975 it became 'KAYAK'. The magazine has seen three or four generations of paddlers over their canoeing careers, and is a valuable record of canoeing history.

It is a pity to see that 'SCAN' the S.C.A. newspaper, has again been suspended - however, the newsletter which was circulated with the S.C.A. Annual General Meeting Minutes was a good effort.

The 'CANOEIST' will soon be in our shops every month. This is White Water Magazine expanded to cater for a wider taste. It looks as if it will be a great boost to canoeing - I believe the Scots should look upon it as a new opportunity to publicise our events and successes.

We have received several critical letters regarding Scottish teams of all disciplines, and also criticising organisers for various shortcomings. I would urge all critics of voluntary officials to attend the Annual General Meetings and offer their services. I don't believe anyone has a legitimate complaint if that person is not prepared to contribute personally to improving the situation.

At present the time is ripe for new people to stand up and be proposed and seconded for positions of responsibility. The S.C.A. is going through a phase of change at present as some well kent faces are not standing for re-election. I would hope that people who want to see changes will forget their personality clashes and do their best to act constructively.

The S.C.A. is all about people, and if all canoeists did their bit instead of waiting for services to be provided for them by "The S.C.A." then the sport of canoeing could be much enhanced.

D.H.C.

15th September 1982 and we flew from Heathrow on the beginning of a trip I hardly believed could happen - the Commonwealth Invitation Regatta and Marathon. To begin with I was querrulous about the arrangements for accommodation, car hire, finding equipment and racing entries, and the level of information anyone had on leaving did not encourage me.

When we arrived they said, "We'll break you in quickly", and the day after we arrived we competed in Queensland's first of the season canoe regattas. We gained five firsts and four seconds. It was a fairly low key regatta with 250m, 500m and 5000m events. We met some of the boats we were to use to train and race, and our hearts fell a little. Then they fell a little more when we discovered the Commonwealth Regatta was to be held on the same site. Not allowing our spirits to rise a lot, we then discovered some of the visiting teams were experiencing 'a little difficulty' raising appropriate teams for the competition basically because no International entries had been made before the closing date.

Officially undeterred, we refused entries in the Commonwealth W/W events as we could not afford the four days the whole event would have taken. It was a two day drive just to get there. We desperately needed the time to repair the equipment we had borrowed and to become acclimatised to the heat. The food was good, steaks and bran and the like. Gradually we became used to the regatta site, the heat and the boats, and did not wholly regret missing the W/W racing.

For days, while we trained, we listened to the A.C.F. deciding whether the regatta was on or off, not a great incentive to train properly. However, preparation over, we turned up at Westlake to compete against, among others, a hastily selected Aussie Team and a small Canadian Team.

The Regatta course was again limited to 500m and was sparsely buoyed. Thankfully the others had become thoroughly accustomed to the eccentricities of the boats we had. I won Silver in the 500m, Lynda won Silver in her 500m, Robert won Silver in the 9 lap 10,000, Lynda won Silver in the K1 6000, and Robert and I won the K2 500m by 8 seconds (By dint of sheer frustration).

Since the 1000m events were cancelled, Gary and Lou Barrie only raced the domestic events and their competition was understandably poor. The K2 500 yielded a first as did the K2 10,000m but it's corners were not what one might call uniform and the race hardly merited the title. I changed the Scottish selectors decision for the team on the basis of the regatta arrangements and fitness assessed just prior to the event, and hence selected myself out of the K1 10 event. Instead I paddled the domestic parallel event and had a good race with Robert. I was first domestic paddler home and at least it was a race worth speaking of.

Up at the crack of dawn the next day for the 60K marathon. I'm now as friendly with water skiers as I previously was with fishermen since that race! Robert set off staying with the pack and unfortunately after 48K blew up, such that he had to be helped off the water. Although it was a massed start for all classes Lou and Gary in K2 were behind Robert at this point and floosied out of the race. Lynda achieved a very creditable Bronze Medal in her 27K race and I a similar medal as third Commonwealth paddler home. Personally I was thrilled to actually finish the race at all, but I was also embarrassed at the piper the officials organised to march me off the water to the podium....I could barely crawl.

The relief in us all that the long preparation was over, and we no longer needed to worry about these infernal boats, was quite obvious. We spent a few days watching the Games and lazing on the beach while waiting for our flight back home.

The Australian way of organising canoeing is not so dis-similar to the ways of the SCA in that they are wrapped up in deep political and personality clashes. Perhaps that's why the Aussies never seem to figure consistently highly at championship levels.

Canada won the trophy with Scotland second. We who were privileged to attend certainly learned a lot about international canoeing. We also learned a lot about boat repairing. Have you ever repaired a tiller by making a new one from a branch of a tree, using a penknife and tape?

It was, however, with quite a few genuine tears we said our goodbyes to the Australians. Several of the team had in fact made tentative enquiries about staying, possibly permanently. We didn't think Lynda was all that interested in the actual surf lifesaving! At least I managed to complete the task of bringing all five back to British shores, all with tales to tell and all with overdrafts.

We cannot express properly the Thanks due to Drew Samuel for actually getting the trip organised in the first place and above all for his unending energy in succeeding to raise such an amount of money to allow us to compete effectively. I've had a lot of trips, but this one was definitely 'One to Remember'.

G.B. Speirs.

Lynda's Story

Lynda Morrison

A team of five Scottish Sprint paddlers met at Heathrow Airport heading down under to compete in the Commonwealth Invitational event in canoeing. The atmosphere at the airport was fantastic with many other athletes from various sports all heading towards Brisbane. It was a long flight taking 36 hours. Everyone found it very difficult to sleep. The aeroplane landed at Muscat, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Sydney, before arriving in Brisbane at 10 o'clock Friday morning; the 17th September, and nine hours ahead of B.M.T.

Robert, deciding that one of the Commonwealth Officials looked rather attractive, tried to impress her by saying that the Scottish Team had arrived for the Games. Before the rest of us realised what was happening, we had been rounded up and ushered past customs to be given the red carpet treatment by Games Officials and News Reporters, who seemed quite happy to take as many pictures of us as they could. I thought it was very civil of them to take our team piccie. We certainly managed to confuse quite a few people including the two Australian Canoe Federation Representatives who were waiting patiently at the Pleb's exit with a large canoeing sign.

On the way to our accommodation, which I might add was excellent, it was announced that we had been entered in their first Regatta of the Season, which was being held the next day. We didn't mind too much until we caught the first glimpse of the canoes which had been allocated to us. Gilbert cut himself a tree down, as he preferred the thought of competing in a dug-out canoe to the porous Hunter. The following week the team was subject to canoe maintenance courses. However, even with the equipment we had, the results were favourable.

The tension grew as the competition we had come for came closer, our training, and tapering off towards the event, wasn't quite what we wanted but everyone coped admirably. With the result that Scotland brought home 3 Golds, 3 Silvers and 2 Bronze Commonwealth Medals, and many more International Regatta Medals.

	<u>Sprint</u>	<u>Marathon</u>
Gilbert Speirs	2 Golds	1 Bronze
Robert Montgomery	1 Gold 1 Silver	
Lynda Morrison	2 Silvers	1 Bronze

The Marathon on the following day was a tough event with the men having to race 70 miles without a break and the ladies a mere 35 miles.

After the event was over, everyone enjoyed a relaxed week at Surfers' Paradise on the Gold Coast....Enjoying a variety of activities and avoiding the sharks. It is certainly a trip that I shall never forget and I am sure I can speak for the rest of the team.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (contd.)

Another response to Doug Wilson's remarks
on page 3 of the August Issue.

From Hugh McGinlay,
36, St. Giles Square,
Camelon, Falkirk. 29.10.82.

Dear Editor,

Your writer's comments on the L.D. scene more than slightly annoy me. Attracted to canoeing by adventure training in the Air Cadet Force, my introduction was to the slalom scene - why? because that is the only discipline promoted on the educational front. By dint of much hard work approx. 30 boats were built from bath tub to much improved boats, and all other necessary equipment obtained. At annual camp approx 200 youngsters were given a wee shot at canoeing, which always proved popular.

Aware of my shortcomings re ability I sought more skilled canoeists to share the load, and on my redundancy, which curtailed my activities, to find others to take over a going concern. This met with a great lack of success. At slalom events, novice paddlers could not practise for noted expert canoeists monopolising gates and water. The then Secretary of the S.C.A. was the biggest criminal at one event, in a CII. I have also read of slalomists' unsocial, not to be confused with high spirits, behaviour on camp sites and on the water. Talking of this at the time, these miscreants were well enough known in the canoeing world for their behaviour. Nobody seemed to take any action to improve matters.

The comments are made to redress the balance re the L.D. scene. Attempting to popularise use of canals brought me in contact with L.D. My contacts have always been helpful and understanding, and almost all who are listed in the year book have done their best to assist my efforts to popularise canoeing. Slalom events promoted on the canals to bring canoeing to the public eye and demonstrate the canal's value as a recreational amenity have been ignored by the "hard men". Can they not put something into the sport and not always be taking out.

As to his suggestions, Falkirk District Council promote an L.D. from Kirkintilloch to Falkirk incorporating a race from Wyndford Loch to Falkirk. This race has attracted international paddlers in the latest boats to novices in bath tubs, male and female. The race is such that all the paddlers finish at approx. the same time - internationalists crossing the line with novice.

A most imaginative Glasgow/Edinburgh two day event was almost ignored by the canoeing world. Properly supported this could catch the eye of the media being an excellent vehicle to that end. As to mixing disciplines the winner of the inaugural event was Neil Davidson, a sprinter of top class; he did not seem to suffer unduly from his efforts, and did something FOR canoeing. Where L.D. is encouraged i.e. Kirkcaldy, Irvine, Paisley, the results are encouraging. One youngster completed Glasgow/Edinburgh despite blisters; his award could in no way be labelled meaningless. Has the writer ever competed in an L.D. and gained a meaningless award?

L.D. could be promoted in schools utilising canals - otherwise without parent interest, how does a youngster start?

As to publicity, the Falkirk Herald has given all canoeing events in the district maximum publicity, banner headlines, big stories, and have headlined Andy Morton, Drew Samuel and Lou Barrie. This is the biggest circulation weekly in the county.

If there is something wrong in the canoeing world the biggest criminals are the paddlers who pursue their own selfish ends and do not paddle to help organisers and the sport. O.K. you can be rugged individualists, but do not expect financial support or media coverage, you will always remain a minority sport.

Yours in sport, Hugh McGinlay.

From Ian Macadie, Secretary
Central Region Canoe Club,
52 The Bryory, Tullibody, Alloa
13.10.82.

Dear Editor,

I and other members of the CRCC attended the Awe slalom on the 2nd /3rd October. While appreciating that the high water level was outside the control of the organisers, I feel that the organisation lacked effect.

The high water level made the bearers hazardous, as was shown by a canoeist being cut by a bearer and needing stitches, and by the loss of a kayak after the paddle snagged on a bearer.

The only notices that the team events were delayed and that the bearers were close enough to the water to become a hazard, were displayed where they would only be seen by those leaving the campsite or visiting the shop. Even if casual inspection showed that the slalom events would be delayed, the hazards of the bearers were not obvious to those tempted to try the big water. There were no marshalls at access points to the river to advise those prepared to attempt the water. It should also have been possible for someone to go around the campsite and warn the canoeists of the danger.

The system of encouraging early entry fees is designed to protect the organisers from financial loss if the event is cancelled. It should be expected that the organisation that accepts your money should be capable of taking reasonable steps to ensure the safety of those who attend.

Yours faithfully, Ian Macadie.

Letter from Lynda Turner,
2, Graham Street,
Bridge of Allan.

Dear Editor,

At the Awe Slalom on October 2nd, a group of us went on the water fairly early in the morning. On the way down the slalom course I got caught on a low bearer and had to get out of my canoe before I could get free. There were very few eddies on the river so I then swam quite a distance before I was rescued by one of the others. As a result of this I had a cut 2 1/2 inches long and 1 inch deep in my right shoulder which needed six stitches.

As it happens it could have been worse as I didn't damage any nerves or muscles badly, and it is almost back to normal now after a month. But the question is, why did it happen at all? I suppose the main reason is that I went on the water without looking at the whole of the slalom course. I went as far as the bridge and from there the top part of the course looked all right, so I got on the water and paddled down. We knew that the water-level was high but we had paddled the river at that height before so that did not worry us too much. The only point that we could have found out about the danger was when we stopped in one of the few eddies part way down the course. We still couldn't see the low bearers but there were people on the bank who may have known about them - but they didn't tell us. After that there was nowhere to stop and the water was moving very fast. The bearers with gates on were quite high and easy to see, but after the gates stopped, the bearers suddenly got low and you could only just see them, and that was when I got caught.

It is easy to say, with hindsight, that I should have looked at the whole slalom course before paddling it, but how many people would do that if they knew the stretch of river fairly well? Another point which has been made is that the organisers should have put up warning notices. I suppose this is a reasonable point but how many people would have thought of the danger before something like my accident occurred? The slalom organisers had a lot to do and think about and I know that the danger would not have occurred to me before my accident. Warning notices were put up afterwards and the very low bearers were cut down and, although they were too late to help me, they may have prevented further accidents.

I feel that it was just an unlucky accident but I have learned from it and I will not paddle on a slalom course again without looking at the whole of it beforehand.
Yours faithfully, Lynda Turner.

FROM Les Berrow,
Firbush Point Field Centre
Killin.

Dear Sir,

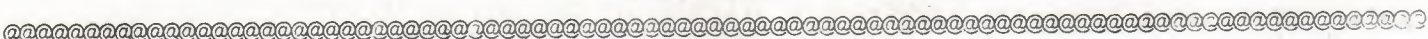
As organiser of the Awe slalom on 2/3rd October, I must say that I was too busy trying to make safe the offending bearers and salvaging the equipment to run around telling canoeists the obvious i.e. where strings are in the water it is hazardous to paddle down through the course. I was working on the course from about 8 a.m. until it was safe and clear - about lunch-time - and despite warnings from me and others, a large number of people paddled through the site. Less trouble would obviously have come about if some of these people had lent a hand in clearing the course (and I would like to thank the people that did).

I cannot agree with Mr. Macadie that "the hazards of the bearers were not obvious". For those people not there, I should explain that the river level rose about 5ft over Friday night to 7 times the usual Sunday "Fresnet" release level; not something you expect on a totally dam controlled river. Practically every one of the 20 gates up had strings in the water and only a complete fool would have paddled the course with just "a casual inspection". Safety in canoeing depends on the skill and judgment of the paddler in very great measure, and I am fairly sure that all the notices and marshals in the world would not have deterred many of the paddlers from attempting the course.

If there is to be any useful outcome from all this, I hope that it will be to encourage slalom paddlers to show more respect for bearers in the water. We have all been caught by a string at some time or another but this is the first time I have seen anyone suffer quite a nasty cut under the arm from one.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who helped re-erect the course and run the event on the Sunday, and all the competitors for their understanding and support.

Yours etc. Les Berrow.



DECIZE REGATTA (France) 26/27th June, 1982.

Sena Christie

The team for the regatta consisted of 13 paddlers and three officials (as listed below). We travelled to the venue in three parties - two cars which transported 6 paddlers and the boats, and a rail party of 7 paddlers with whom I travelled.

The train party had a smooth but lengthy journey linking up with Lynda Morrison and Steven Murphy in London. We reached our destination late on Friday night and were accommodated along with the Czechoslovakian team in the dormitories of the Regional Secondary School which had just gone on holiday the previous day. This accommodation was spartan! mixed!! and interesting!!! but none-the-less appreciated as was the overwhelming entertaining which we received during our stay.

The regatta course was set out on the river Loire as it passed through the town. Unfortunately it was only a 500 metre course as there was a sizeable weir downstream and the river was broader and shallower above the start. This did not prevent us having two full days of competition.

Opposition proved to be stiff, with teams from Czechoslovakia, W.Germany and Holland to supplement the large French club entry. As several of our regular "A" team members were unavailable for this tour it was recognised that the best chance of success was likely to be in the Junior events. The team did well and valuable experience was gained by the newly "blooded" Seniors.

The return journey was something of a "marathon" due to a breakdown in the French Railway system and we were held up in Paris for 12 hours which we put to good use sightseeing. This was a good tour during which we all gained valuable experience and the members of the team were all very good ambassadors for their sport and country. Since then we have entertained the Chief Official of the regatta, our interpreter and her husband when they visited us in Scotland. Team Manager A.Davidson, Asstd. S.Christie, Transport:E.Davidson. Paddlers: J.Adair, K.Bryce,R.Christie,A.Davidson,N.Davidson,C.Douglas,G.Douglas F.Kinnear,D.Mills,A.Miller,L.Morrison,S.Murphy.

Scottish canoeists have been well represented in the British Sprint Teams in 1982.

Robert Montgomery, Irvine CC, and Gibbie Speirs, Trossachs CC, paddled for Great Britain at Deventer, Holland, in May. Gary Young, Trossachs CC, paddled in the Junior Great Britain Team at Bosbaan and Deventer, Holland, and Neil Davidson, Kirkcaldy CC was also part of the G.B. Junior Team at the two Dutch Internationals, and also in Munich where he did well to reach the finals of all the six sprint events.

OLYMPIC TRAINING SQUAD 1983

Only the Junior Men Kayak Squad has been announced to date and includes two Scots boys: Neil McLaughlan now resident at Royal Leamington Spa and Neil Davidson of Kirkcaldy; both lads are aiming to make the eight strong British Team which will compete at the World Championships in Poland in August 1983.

HOME COUNTRIES REGATTA, CARDIFF. SEPTEMBER 1982.

This year the Home Countries Regatta was hosted by the Welsh Canoe Union at Roath Park, Cardiff. Roath Park can be best described as a very large boating pond situated in a posh suburban area of Cardiff. A very picturesque situation surrounded by trees, with very good canoe storage and undercover spectator area, just as well as - boy, did it rain! and to complete an Edwardian setting, a brass band played nautical airs. The park had been envisaged by Lord Bute at the turn of the century. I'm sure His Lordship himself would have stood up and cheered at the magnificent performance by the young Scots team of thirteen canoeists who took second place in the battle for the Home Countries Shield.

Despite some of our strongest paddlers taking part in the Australian scene, the Scots team brought home fistfulls of medals to the delight of Team Manager Peter Christie.

SCOTTISH RESULTS

<u>JUN.MEN K1</u>	500m	N.Davidson	1st	<u>SEN.A.MEN K2</u>	Anderson/Christie	2nd
	6000m	N.Davidson	1st	<u>K4</u>	Anderson/Christie/ Murphy/Davidson	3rd
<u>K2</u>	500m	N.Davidson/ N.McLaughlan	1st	<u>K1 500m Relay</u>	Anderson/Christie/ Murphy/Davidson	2nd
<u>K4</u>	500m	Davidson/McLaughlan/ Maycock/O'Brien	2nd	<u>SEN.B.MEN K1</u>	500m R.Christie	1st
<u>K1</u>	500m Relay	do.	2nd	<u>K2</u>	Davidson/Murphy	1st
<u>SEN.LADIES K1</u>	500	M.Kinninmonth	2nd	<u>SEN MEN C1</u>	500m G.Douglas	3rd
	6000	M.Kinninmonth	2nd		6000m G.Douglas	3rd
<u>JUN.LADIES K1</u>	500	A.Edwards	2nd	<u>JUN MEN C1</u>	500m A.Maycock	3rd
	K1 6000	A.Edwards	3rd			

NATIONAL MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the National Marathon Championships on the Trent at the August Bank Holiday, Gary Young of Trossachs took 4th place in the Junior Men K1 and Alison Edwards of Kirkcaldy partnered by Heather Brough of Worcester took 2nd place in the Junior Ladies K2.

ANNE DAVIDSON HERSELF I regret my resignation from the position of sprint Secretary because of ill-health, but must stick to doctor's orders for the time being, but would like to continue to guide from the sidelines and perhaps engender a more positive approach to canoeing. I feel it is regrettable that those who are enthusiastic and willing to come forward and participate, can be so easily sniped at by the arm chair critics. Instead of looking for faults in the system, we should emphasize the strong points and build on that.

Anne Davidson.

P.S. Scots have also been very evident on the sidelines on the National scene. Ed Davidson and Harold Young, Umpires, and Anne Davidson providing a Scottish voice in the commentary.

The 6th Tay Marathon attracted an entry of 11 Scottish paddlers this year and another 20 or so English paddlers. It cost the S.C.A. £300 and many man hours of work.

Canoeists and administrators must ask themselves two questions:-

1. Why was the entry so poor? and 2. Is it worth it?

To my mind, the race must rank as one of the best in the world in terms of the quality of water and scenery. Why does it attract such a tiny number of enthusiasts?

It is a tough event, requiring a high degree of skill and endurance, perhaps too much for the average canoeist, and certainly too much for me this year!

Could the £300 be better spent encouraging youngsters to attend high quality English events? Your thoughts and comments would be appreciated.

A.M.

The event was run for the S.C.A. by Forth Canoe Club members, Andy Morton, Dougie Wilson, Dave Cuthill and Dave Wolfe, among others. In the Junior event two of the three Scottish paddlers were club members and Grant Wilson deserves credit for his 5th position against tough opposition from the British Team junior paddlers. Derek Newport also did very well to finish the course. Without Forth CC there would have been NO EVENT!

SELECTED RESULTS:Senior Men K1

1. J. West	Eng.	6.55.05
5. K. Fraser	Scot.	7.14.19
6. K. Bryce	Scot.	7.53.33

Senior Men K2

1. Field/Crawford	Eng.	7.23.40
2. Morrison/Watt	Scot.	7.44.37

Ladies K1

1. H. Brough(Y)	Eng.	4.55.34
2. M. Kinninmonth	Scot.	5.11.52

Junior Men K1

1. N. Brevit	Eng.	4.20.09
5. G. Wilson	Scot.	4.34.11
8. J. Adair	Scot.	4.54.12
9. D. Newport	Scot.	5.29.30
10. P. O'Brien	Scot.	5.44.00

Junior Men K2

1. Maycock/Chisholm	Scot.	4.37.54
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MARATHON RESULTSTWEED - 19th SEPTEMBER 1982

DIV I	K. Fraser	Roxburgh CC
	A. Morton	Forth CC
DIV 2	K. Bryce	Strath. Univ.
	G. Logie	Forth CC
LADIES	D. Riddell-Black	Strath. Univ.
	C. Berry	Forth CC

TWEED TROPHY - STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITYLEVEN (SCOT. K1 CHAMPS) 10th OCTOBER 1982

SEN. MEN.	K. Fraser	Roxburgh CC
	K. Bryce	Strath. Univ.
	A. Denny	Forth CC
JUN. MEN.	G. Wilson	Forth CC
	S. McCartney	Paisley K.C.
	D. Newport	Forth CC
SEN. LADIES	M. Kinninmonth	Kirkcaldy CC
	D. Riddell-Black	Strath. Univ.
JUN. LADIES	A. Edwards	Kirkcaldy CC
	C. Berry	Forth CC.

SPRINT AND MARATHON OPEN DAY

On Sunday the 12th December the Sprint and Marathon Committee are hosting an open day on Stirling University Campus starting at 10.30 hrs. The interesting programme includes a discussion on the various advantages and disadvantages of the various types and makes of canoe and kayak paddles, by Alastair Wilson of Lendal Products. Alastair has also promised to organise a session in the gymnasium. Also included in the programme is a "Review of 1982" with snaps and slides of Nottingham, Decize, Cardiff and the Tay and Liffey Marathons. Also it is hoped that Gibby Speirs will be coming north to give a talk on the "Australian Experience - and the Commonwealth Regatta". Don't forget to bring your canoes and paddles as the water at Airthrey Loch is also available! Do come along and Join In - all canoeists, beginners or international status in any of the various disciplines are welcome!

The final marathon of the '82 season saw 24 paddlers on the start-line. The river was a moderate level, having dropped a few feet from its previous midweek high, but still high enough to cause the odd capsized. Ken Bryce (SUCC) won in 81 mins. after a slow start - indeed he was last off the start. (Divisional winners listed below).

But where were all the paddlers? Only 2 Div.1, no Div.3 and 4 out of 5 in Div.4 were from the organising club- SUCC. I consider the Clyde to be one of our best marathon courses with the white water spread out enough to keep the interest throughout - Crossford Bridge - Horse Shoe Falls - Garrion Weir - Addersgill. Add the hot shower afterwards at Strathclyde Park and you have an event which should satisfy most paddlers. Apart from the regular marathon types, many white water racing paddlers could use this event for a bit of stamina work before their season starts. Make the Clyde Marathon one of your definite dates next year.

Div.1	A. Davidson	Kirkcaldy	82.06
Div.2	K. Bryce	S.U.C.C.	81.00
Div.4	R. McKinnon	S.U.C.C.	58.05
Div.6	G. Wilson	Forth	79.21
	M. Forde		

Ladies

Div.1	M. Kininmonth	Kirkcaldy	58.13
Div.2	D. Riddell-Black	S.U.C.C.	59.07

NOTE ALSO: SUNDAY 30th January 1983 Irvine CC are hosting a training day at Irvine, starting at 1100 hrs.
Contact Peter Christie - Tel. 041-644-1962

WHITE WATER NEWS

A. Morton

In an effort to stimulate more interest in the Sport, the W.W. Committee is running a number of non-ranking Marathon type White Water events! Don't be put off by the word "Marathon"! These races are simply extended White Water Races over distances of around five to seven miles. Hopefully they will attract some interest for a number of reasons.

1. The entry fees will be very low and Clubs organising such events will have no levy to pay.
2. There will be massed starts so that competitors will know how they are getting on as the race proceeds and will have the added excitement of racing for the finish knowing their position in relation to the others in the event.
3. There should be less trouble with timing and organising the event and little room for dispute as to who has won the event, and by how much!
4. Paddlers will have a good half hour paddle or more on a piece of extended rough water.
5. There will be no hanging about on cold wet winter's days waiting for the Team event or prize giving, or the start for that matter!

The following courses are being considered: 1. Potarch to Banchory on the Dee; 2. Callander to the normal finish of the W.W. race on the Teith; 3. Kinclaven to Thistle on the Tay; 4. Stonebyres to Rosebank on the Clyde; 5. The full course on the Nith; 6. Aberfeldy to Grandtully on the Tay.

The Teith race has already been confirmed as being a massed start non-ranking event from Callander. More information can be obtained from Drew Samuel, Auchengillan, Blanefield. Kenny Bain will be organising one or more of the other events.

The usual calendar of Ranking events will be organised, but there may be fewer Div C events as a result of the above changes. Remember, entry fees for long distance events will be much less than is normal at canoeing events.

Kenny's Story

As a result of an Irishman becoming a member of S.U.C.C. and my memories of a trip to the Liffey with H.R.H. K.Riddel, way back in 1969, coupled with Andy's enthusiasm, we decided to go to the Liffey Descent. Four of us were definitely going, John Ringwood, Angus Morrison, Andy Watt and myself, but I would have preferred another one or two to keep costs down. Townsend Thoresen gave us a good deal for the ferry and didn't want to know about the length of a K2.....Total costs were estimated at £120, £85 for the ferry and £35 for petrol.

As soon as we reached Dublin we went to look at the weirs on the lower part of the course but our imagination had to be good as most of them were bone dry and we could walk across them. On the Saturday we went off to look over the rest of the weirs and met some friendly Irishmen who told us we would need to register - we made it just in time - ten minutes late. Parking at the start was well organised, though the numbers were pretty high. Andy and Angus were nearly organised in the K2, John was looking a little apprehensive in his WW Racer and I was hoping I wouldn't break my K1 too much.

Checking of boats for safety was very strict and a few boats were rejected as having insufficient buoyancy. Access at the start proved to be a little bit difficult as the owner of the land, a builder, had gone bankrupt and the receiver was being difficult. This caused the start to be delayed but this gave me time to ask some more people about the chances of taking my K1 over the big drop on Lucan weir. I came to no definite conclusion and decided to wait and see how I felt when I got there.

Now to the race proper: The K2s were off first, followed by the senior K1s, junior and ladies K1s, WW Racers and finally a huge number of slalom boats. The K1s went off very fast, well, faster than I could go anyway, so I followed on at my own regular pace. The first weir is only 1000m down the river and by the time I got there they had started to queue for the 'chute'.....seemed like a waste of time to me so over at the first available space, only a three foot vertical drop and no real apparent damage to the boat, so well worthwhile in terms of places made up. Next hazard is the Jungle - a beginners nightmare and pretty bad for most people; lots of people seemed to be enjoying swimming down this section, some even having two attempts at swimming! There certainly was no room for wash-hanging so people were beginning to get more spread out.

I don't remember much about the next two weirs and was soon crossing the lake above Leixlip Dam. The portage of about 500m wasn't difficult but it would have been nice to have someone waiting with sustenance (whoever she is).

Sluice weir was next and has perhaps the fastest moving water of all the weirs - needless to say I got it wrong and was spun out. On to Lucan and was passed by a Flying Irishman in a River Racer (Shane Kelly) who delighted the huge crowd by going down the fish ladder. I must admit the spirit of things got to me and I then decided to try the 'High Drop' and to my amazement and delight I got away with it. It was a HUGE drop; about ten feet and has to be done sideways the drop is so sheer.

Wren's Nest is the next weir and the first of the Big 'Vee' weirs; if you don't hit the crest of the 'vee' at just the right position, you almost certainly go into the stopper. The four boats in front of me all swam - shame - but I got it right to my relief. I went into the next weir, another 'Vee' full of confidence, only to fall off the side of the standing waves (thank goodness I use a roll strap) and after three attempts managed to get myself upright, only to find myself pushed into the trees where I lost my paddles. A kindly Rescue Boat returned them to me as I drifted downstream. Only one small weir left which didn't pose much of a problem even though I had taken in a fair amount of water; a bit of a slog to the finish where 'Liffey descent' badges are presented as soon as you get out of your boat.

There was no sign of Andy and Angus, even 'though they left before me. A quick count of K1s puts me in about 10th - 15th place. Andy and Angus arrived looking like a submarine, and John came in with his hair sticking out through the holes in his helmet.

After spending Saturday night and Sunday in Dublin, the drive back to Larne was as uneventful as the drive down, and we caught the 8p.m. ferry with time to spare. We were back in Glasgow by midnight.

A great trip....only £30 travelling expenses....perhaps we'll take a minibus next year.

Kenny Bryce.

John's story

John Ringwood

Having seen some of the weirs on the way up, I felt a little apprehensive about the ones I hadn't seen. The fact that I had canoed on the Liffey before didn't help either, as the weirs that I had shot were the ones that I had seen, and I had no idea how much water was going over them.

Anyway, the moment we'd all been waiting patiently for came, and the man said '3 2 1'....the 'GO' being drowned by the noise of splashing water and flailing paddles. What a mess....boats all over the place!!!

Fortunately paddlers got themselves sorted out by Straffan the first weir, where people were dropping like lemmings over the weir.....all the careful planning went out of the window as you had to shoot it wherever there was a space. A few swimmers resulted here; but then on to an even deadlier danger....'The Jungle'! Discounted by me earlier as insignificant compared with the weirs, I soon realised my miscalculation and I paid the price. Ducking low to get through a hole in the trees I forgot about 216 cms of paddle sticking out and was promptly capsized as they caught in the tree. I rolled, but did my usual trick of following my paddle back in the other side and had a swim. Getting back into the boat was difficult as the banks were covered in trees and by the time I'd rejoined the race I had been passed by most of the slalom boats. That being the end of the competitive side of things for me I settled down to enjoy the event. Luckily for me I was always able to follow paddlers down the weirs I didn't know, as I threaded my way through the slalom boats. I was amazed to see some guys paddling slalom C1s absolute lunatics. Among them was David Hennessy whom I'd met in Spain during the summer and who, I discovered, came from the same town in Ireland as I did. A small world indeed.....

I plodded on and even caught a few River Racers and K1s; saw a few people capsize, had a good few laughs and a chat with some of the other paddlers. It was great to hear some real Irish accents again.....

Things went quite well until I came to Palmerstoun weir which I hadn't been down before; though I'd had a good look at it, I didn't have anyone to follow. It was a 'Vee' weir and as I approached I craned my neck to check the angle of approach - I got the angle right, but in going to the left of what looked like a spike, ended up in the stopper between the chute and the weir face. Bracing on the stopper I slid to the bottom and ended up sitting in the stopper at the bottom of the face - till - whoosh - the water coming over the face of the weir caught the wing and my paddles went flying up in the air as I went over in a 'flash' (p.s. Strathclyde Joke)....CLUNK CLUNK went my head on the weir - and Boy! was I glad I had a 'lid' on. Finding myself in a turmoil of boiling water I stuck out my arm and "EUREKA" up I came again having completed my first 'hand-roll'!!! I was even more surprised than the spectators who were making an awful racket. I couldn't figure out whether they were cheering or booing; probably the latter, as they were quite partial to seeing people swimming....However, I was not out of my predicament yet as I was still sitting in the stopper with no paddles....Coolly and calmly (slight exaggeration) I performed an amazing feat of balance and braced on the stopper to its end and out I popped...The cheering from the crowd was tremendous and I was handed back my paddles with the comment "I thought you'd had it there"....Indeed I was inclined to agree with him!

The rest of the paddle was uneventful....a few small drops and a few more chats; one notable event being the chivalrous act of rescuing a lady K1

paddler who seemed too tired even to swim. Two other funny incidents, another lady K1 paddler showing me the way down a weir and capsizing herself; having passed a guy in a K1 just before a weir, all I could hear from behind me was.... 'Oh no!'..... 'Oh.....' and wasn't particularly surprised when I turned round to see him swimming down the standing waves at the bottom of the weir. At the finish I was given a cool 'Liffey Descent' badge and had some 13 egg sandwiches and a few pints of milk before taking a cool (0° C app.) shower.

On the whole a thoroughly enjoyable event; I was a bit disappointed with my swim, but the Guinness and party on Saturday night sure made up for it.

John Ringwood.

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DEESIDE TRIATHLON - 2nd OCTOBER, 1982

Drusilla Riddell Black

(Braemar - 27 miles - Aboyne - 13 miles - Banchory - 18 miles - Aberdeen)

6.15 a.m. and seven members of Strathclyde University Canoe Club reluctantly poked their noses over the edge of their downies at their B & B in Braemar. The day had not yet dawned! "What kind of !!! are we?" was the thought in everyone's minds, competitors and support crews alike! The day did eventually dawn, bright, crisp and clear, much to everyone's relief as the evening before there had been torrential rain.

After registering at the Games Ground we began to pick out the high fliers. Many people we knew from the canoeing scene, but the cyclists and runners were also out in their numbers. I was the first cyclist off in the Strathclyde bunch so didn't have the pleasure of seeing everyone struggle into their toe clips as they started off up the hill. Evidently everyone had a good laugh at me! Allan Murray got off to a good start winning the cycling section, having tanked past me by Ballater even though he started 11 minutes behind me - a real moral booster at the start of an event, I don't think! Everyone must have enjoyed the cycling. It was a lovely morning and the road surfaces were excellent.

Twenty-seven miles later was Aboyne and the start of the stage that we were all dreading. A quick change of shoes and a drink later and everyone was trotting out towards Banchory. This eleven mile stage turned out to be thirteen, but you didn't discover this until you were already a mile out of Aboyne. Potarch bridge and the half-way mark meant a bottle of water and a sponge. I felt a bit of a fraud accepting these since I walked up to the tables! In fact I did quite a bit of walking between Aboyne and Banchory - it wasn't until the latter half of the running stage that I began to move comfortably after the cycling.

Banchory reached I began to feel home and dry - an opinion that was soon to change when I saw the height of the river at close quarters. Not being too stable in a K1 at the best of times, I went back to get a buoyancy aid. Many people braved the water for the first time in slalom boats and, for those who had been close to winning, this was to be their downfall. In the lower reaches of the course, the K1's were largely unaffected by large and frequent boils that slewed the slalom boats, and even white water racers, to one side or another. With the river so high the canoeing section was fast and it was not long before the Granite City was in view. At the Aberdeen Boat Club - the finish - the event organiser Andrew Manwell greeted you with beaming smile presenting you with specially designed pottery medals before you had even left your boat. All of us from Strathclyde thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The sense of achievement was tremendous and all credit should go to Andrew Manwell for an excellent and well run event.

|                           |                      |       |        |        |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. James Knox             | Roxburgh CC          | 4 hrs | 15 min | 03 sec |
| 2. Allan Murray           | R.W.S.A.B.C.         | 4     | 23     | 47     |
| 3. Kenny Fraser           | Teviotdale Harriers  | 4     | 27     | 28     |
| 4. Iain Linn              | Edinburgh WWC        | 4     | 35     | 10     |
| 5. John Ringwood          | Strathclyde Uni.C.C. | 4     | 53     | 05     |
| 1. Drusilla Riddell Black | "                    | 5     | 49     | 05     |
| 2. Moira MacLeod          | Aberdeen             | 6     | 08     | 17     |
| 3. Evelyn Courtney        | Strathclyde Uni.C.C. | 6     | 37     | 21     |
| 4. Ann Reid               | Roxburgh CC          | 6     | 47     | 46     |



COMMODORE'S COMMENT

As the long nights draw in and the year comes to an end, it is time to take a quiet look at the past twelve months and to make some sort of outline plan for the future year. However, plans are always changed and budgets re-allocated, so some of the following will no doubt be changed as we swing into 1983.

The central administration of the S.C.A. seems to be reasonably well under control as far as I can see from performing the annual Audit of the Accounts. It is quite amazing how quickly missing receipts miraculously reappear when the S.C.A. cashier will only pay out after receiving a petrol receipt or train ticket, and how refreshing it is to go through the books and see the history of the various trips and meetings and competitions unfold in the form of fully documented claims. I join with Andy Morton in congratulating Alastair Torrance in getting his financial system into good order, and Margaret Winter for operating it so well.

In the main competitive sectors there is a varied story. Slaloms seem as well attended as ever, although it is quite apparent that with the reduction in Education budgets caused by the economic situation and the whims of central government, fewer mini-bus loads of school children are being transported to events. In the less well attended sectors of competition such as Marathon and Sprint, the loss of these sizeable groups has clearly made several events into economic disappointments, if not complete disasters. This will probably reflect on our national standards in about four or five years time as the current generation of enthusiasts fade into obscurity without being replaced by today's youngsters.

I can only hope I am wrong, and advise organisers of next year's events in these sectors to make every effort to get every youngster possible in a seat and paddling, to try to make up the lost ground.

Forth Canoe Club has had a good year considering the above background. We have had as large an influx of novices as usual through our weekly sessions at Craiglockhart; several experienced canoeists in the area have been attracted to us; our top competitors have achieved good results reflecting their training efforts; and our upper level new generation is 'on target'. With our new Jack Cuthill Building imminently complete with toilets and showers at the waterside, there will be no real excuse for giving those early morning training sessions a miss, and we should be looking for some super-fit guys and gals collecting plenty of scrap metal around their necks next season. (Incidentally, paddlers from other areas are welcome to make use of this new facility, and preferably join our club to help pay for it.....).

The S.C.A. is now offering Life Membership for £150. While this seems a large amount, consider that current annual subscription is some £12 -odd and will rise each year, so that £150 represents probably only six years membership. It is quite worth considering when it seems that a 'Lifer' gets all the benefits of full membership including the newly introduced comprehensive Insurance for self and craft. A veritable bargain!

See youse all at the J.C. opening, the F.C.C. AGM and the F.C.C. Boogonite.....(Details elsewhere)

R.K.R.

Because it appeared in a Saturday (16th October) edition of the "Scotsman" newspaper I think it possible that many canoeists missed being made aware of the most recent episode in the continuing saga of Spey turbulence. The latest in the series of Spey-related court cases involved action taken by Brigadier Peter and Mrs. Diana Curtis of Inshriach House and Mr. Stephen Scammell and Mrs. Hyacinthe McLaren, proprietors of Kinrara Estate, against the Scottish Sports Council. Both prosecuting parties have riparian ownership fishing rights on stretches of the Spey between Loch Insh and Aviemore (Kinrara left bank and Inshriach right bank, as well as a stretch on the River Feshie, a tributary of the Spey). In this action, heard in the Court of Session in Edinburgh, the proprietors state that the canoeing activities of the Sports Council groups based at their training centre at Glenmore "adversely affect the exercise of their fishing right". The proprietors seek to limit these activities. In presenting their case the proprietors seem to accept that the Spey has a right of public navigation but claim that this is limited to a straight passage downstream. They seek to interdict the Council "from entering or trespassing on both estates, wading for the purpose of dragging canoes on the river bed, beaching canoes and manoeuvring or current crossing". The Inshriach proprietors also seek interdict in respect of the Feshie, claiming that the public right of navigation does not extend to tributaries.

Since 1976 certain riparian owners through the Spey Fishing Trust endeavoured to set up a mutually acceptable agreement with local "main user" canoe groups. Any headway in this direction was almost completely lost when the Spey Fishing Trust folded last year. Sir David Wills has again recently met independently with six of the local "main user" groups to salvage and implement any agreement plan relevant to Knockando and Tulcan Estates. One or two other proprietors tend to adopt a rather less co-operative attitude. No less those involved in this current court action. Mr. Scammell, whose address is given as East Knoyle, Salisbury, Wiltshire tends to direct most of his objections through formal legal channels. Brigadier Curtis on the other hand has been known to resort to rather more blatant military type tactics! Once while I was visiting the Brigadier regarding a personal matter, I was shown into his barn where, behind the door, there lay a well-cared for slalom boat. I ventured to ask if the Brigadier had taken up canoeing, but he replied, "No, No! - captured enemy equipment! Captured enemy equipment!" This statement is indicative of the man's attitude towards canoeing and canoeists. Inshriach is the only estate on the Spey known to place its scarecrows by the river bank - dressed in fishing garb (...to keep ospreys at bay?). Nowhere else on the river are canoeists likely to be confronted by an irate gent leaping out from behind bushes and who will, for no apparent reason, hurl abuse at the canoe group. He has referred to responsible canoe group leaders as "vandals" and has on occasion become so incensed as to be unaware of his wellies filling with water as he waded further into the river! More recently and more seriously this same man, as well as frightening a group of teenage canoeists by shouting and swearing at them, took to physically pushing canoes away from the bank. These school pupils were on their first river trip and had innocently and quite properly broken out into an eddy to wait while their instructor dealt with an accidental capsized. The action of pushing these boats into the main stream resulted in a dangerous situation where six young people were capsized and in the water at one time. (The actions of a man seeking justice?....)

Of the incidents leading to and of the reason for this latest case being brought to court no one is absolutely sure. On the 15th of October Lord McDonald referred to the case as having already had "a weary sojourn" through the court since January 1980. Despite the apparently continuing vague nature of the proprietors pleadings Lord McDonald decided that the case should have further enquiry but to date no time has yet been set for a further hearing.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR CANOEISTS ON THE SPEY.

David Craig  
River Adviser

I am taking this opportunity of writing to tell of one or two of the recent developments on the Spey. First of all I list the accepted access/egress points. These are all easily accessible areas, accepted in discussion in any local agreement plans and therefore use is unlikely to cause upset.

|                  |                                                                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Newtonmore       | at campsite below road bridge, left bank                                             |
| Kingussie        | just below road bridge at Ruthven, left bank                                         |
| Loch Insh        | Loch Insh Sailing School site, north end of loch                                     |
| Aviemore         | Below road bridge under foot bridge, right bank                                      |
| Boat of Garten   | Above road bridge, left bank.                                                        |
| Broomhall Bridge | Right bank by bridge                                                                 |
| Grantown on Spey | Left bank well above road bridge.                                                    |
| Cromdale         | Below road bridge by church, right bank                                              |
| Advie Bridge     | (GR.120354) below bridge, left bank                                                  |
| Ballindalloch 1. | Left bank by road at approx. GR 158369                                               |
| Ballindalloch 2. | Right bank by railway bridge (disused) GR 168368                                     |
| Knockando        | Left bank below disused railway station GR 195415                                    |
| Aberlour         | Right bank below Victoria foot bridge.                                               |
| Craigellachie    | Right bank by road bridge (use path leading downstream into Council Car Park).       |
| Boat o'Brig      | Left bank below road bridge                                                          |
| Fochabers        | Right bank by bridge.                                                                |
| Mouth of River   | a) Right bank by Crown Netting Station<br>(Crown Estate Commissioners/Gordon Estate) |
|                  | b) On sea beach - big shingle                                                        |

Canoeists are asked not to land on any other locations except in, or to avoid, an emergency situation. There is a public right of navigation on the River Spey, but obviously it is imperative that there is a mutual respect and co-operation between all water users.

Following negotiations with Sir David Wills, Knockando Rapid has been designated a white water practise area and although it has been agreed that local groups will not canoe the Advie to Aberlour stretch on Mondays Wednesdays and Saturdays during the fishing season, the rapid itself can be used on any day. Access is from the Station Yard at Knockando and portage is possible by a footpath marked by white posts on the right bank. Because Tamdhu Distillery at Knockando is now closed at certain times of the year and on Sundays, canoeists may find the entrance to the Knockando station yard chained and padlocked. On these occasions canoeists are asked to co-operate by parking and changing discreetly outwith the station yard. If the yard is open you are welcome to park and unload on the old railway line (close to the river) and then park in the yard away from the public. Changing of clothing should be discreet at any part of the riverside. At Knockando in particular please ensure changing takes place out of public view. Certain incidents have rather jeopardised canoeists being welcomed at the Tamdhu site. No less, a not too shy but rather "cheeky" Forces group and also a collection of Dutch ladies, who seemed to confuse Knockando with St. Tropez. Both incidents occurred on separate days - fortunately some say!

Lastly, but very IMPORTANTLY, I have recently received reports of a WIRE OBSTRUCTION on the Spey as it passes through Tulcan Estate. At about one mile upstream of Advie Bridge a wire has been stretched and tightened across the left-hand channel by an island. The purpose of the wire is supposedly for the benefit of fishermen to aid safe river crossing. The wire is stretched to about the level of canoeists' neck height. Please use the right-hand channel.

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SOCIAL, PERSONAL & OTHERWISE

We wish Jim and Sheila Cameron of "AFTON CANOES", good luck in their new home which will be: AFTON HOUSE, STEWARTON ROAD, FENWICK, AYRSHIRE. They are moving on 20th December. The "AFTON CANOES" advertisement on the inside front cover of this magazine will be altered in our February issue, and we hope to have their 'phone number soon.

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We also wish Fred and Ann Nelson and their baby son good luck in their move to 11 Barnton Place, Edinburgh.

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Grant Wilson had to withdraw from the recent Tweed Marathon because of a sprained ankle. How did he manage to do that? playing rugby? ski-ing? hang gliding? parachuting? - no....he tripped over his other left foot whilst DANCING!

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Dougie Wilson was telling us that he has become accustomed over the years to (reluctantly) disclaiming Jane as one of the "Prestonpans Wilsons", but he was unprepared for the youngster who greeted him one evening with..... "I hear your WIFE paddled well in America"!

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Here are the names of the "Sprint and Marathon 100 club" winners. July - N.Gardner, Kirkcaldy. August - M. Winter, Edinburgh. September - P. Paulinetta, Lochgelly. October - D. Young, St. Andrews.

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We hear that former Scottish C2 Slalom Champion George Florence's wife Jill (of the clan Ramage), has given birth to a baby boy, David. Mother and child are both doing well. We send our Congratulations to all three.

Seven year itch? George's ex-partner and former Scottish Slalom and WW team member, Ronnie Kennedy is back on the scene after a 7 year rest. His wife told him to start canoeing again to get rid of his beer belly!

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Another new/old face on the slalom scene next year will be Jeremy Haycock. He was a British Youth Team paddler about 4 years ago. It is predicted that he'll be one of the top paddlers in Scotland within two seasons. By the way, don't argue with him, he's a Royal Marine Commando.

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

A timely warning to all. Winter is here and two female novices were one step away from hypothermia after long swims on the Stanley to Thistle stretch recently. - Instructors take note.

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

Tommy "jiving" Prentice from Kelso showed us his talents at Louise and Susan's party at 'Millionaires' in Edinburgh recently. He danced with every female he could lay hands on, and even those who wouldn't let him.

It was a great party, and even if the Christmas one on the 21st December is half as good.....I'll be there!

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There's a rope bridge for taking sheep over the River Orchy. The latest "kick" is to sit on your boat and be pushed off it (seal launch style) - a stomach-tightening 25 feet; and you torpedo into the river until the water pressure shoots you back up in the air like a dolphin! Hire a heart attack!

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Here's a wee message from Drusilla Riddell Black. "I should like to take this opportunity to thank members of Forth Canoe Club for their hospitality during the ten weeks in the summer that I was working through in the East. The temporary use of Keith Brown's rack space in the Canal Hut was greatly appreciated and my thanks go to both Keith and Kelso who allowed this arrangement to continue. I would like to say a special thankyou to Doug and Grant Wilson for helping me train, and for ferrying me to events. They helped to make my stay in Edinburgh enjoyable and fruitful. Good Paddling to all at 'Forth'.

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

We have now received a story from Andy Watt about Angus Morrison and himself negotiating the weirs and jungles on the Liffey. Unfortunately the envelope was sent to the wrong address and we received it too late. However, we can say that Andy and Angus started to have a bash at K2 paddling back in February this year and did a lot of serious training. They went to most of the events this year, which they say were mostly poorly attended, partially they think because L.D. has got such a serious image. They believe in having a good laugh whilst doing L.D. and decided that the training sessions and competitions before the Liffey provided as much to remember as the actual race. They acquired, so they say, the title of the most DISORGANISED RACERS in the WW/LD/Sprint scenes, providing talking points which had their audiences rolling in the aisles with laughter....."Sorry we could not print your article Andy....."

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We are sorry to hear that Morag Boyd has given up her position as Manager of the Scottish Team as well as her chairmanship of the Slalom Committee. Morag has served the Scottish Team well, over the last three years, and we thank her for her dedicated work over that period. Morag wishes to concentrate on her School canoe club (Breachin High) which she feels that she has been neglecting.

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

A wee note from Gordon Cuthill.... "We recently had a visit from a French canoeist who came from a place near Villefranche in Southern France, and was on holiday in Scotland. He had tried to find out about Scottish canoeing from the Tourist Information Office but unfortunately they could not help him (SCA office please note!). He eventually got our address from Craiglockhart Sports Centre. He was looking for ideas for a canoeing holiday in Scotland next year, so we suggested a few areas he might look at. He has invited any club members to contact him if they are considering a holiday in the South of France next year, and he will advise of the best places to paddle." Further information from Gordon, FCC Club Secretary.

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

On having a look at our August edition of 'KAYAK' I read again Bluebell's account of Jock and himself battling down the course in their C2 at the Merano Pre-World Championships in Italy earlier this year. What a grand team these two have been. Yes, I say 'have been', because - as had to happen sometime - it has all come to an end. Jock tells me that he just decided he didn't want to paddle any more. In his words "I'm getting too old for the amount of training you have to do to stay at the top, and there are other things in life I want to do". Regretfully, he has also given up coaching the Scottish Team. However, Jock has been asked to coach the C2's in the British Team so it is good to know that he will be travelling south with the Scottish members of the British Squad when they take part in their training sessions over the next few months. We wish Jock and Bluebell good luck as they go their separate ways.

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

The Editors of 'KAYAK' would be glad to receive your news, views, gossip and indignant letters etc. not later than the first week of February 1983 which is the next month of publication.

(Quote from the Result Sheet)

"G.U.C.C. would like to make it clear that 'Raindrops keep falling on my head' is NOT their theme tune, and neither is 'Singing in the Rain'. Songs like 'You are my Sunshine' and 'Here comes Summer' are considered to be in bad taste, and 'Mr. Blue Sky', just isn't funny!

Having said this, Thanks to everyone who helped make the weekend work, and a special thanks to all who stayed up until 1.30 a.m. guarding the course, and also the Comrie and Crieff Police.

See y'all again next year, STEVE."

This quote says it all; it did occasionally stop raining, but luckily, unlike last year, the river did not rise sufficiently to force cancellation of the event. However, it was an enjoyable, low key, competition with Open C2 slalom and a Rolling Competition. There was even an airbed race, but this had to be cancelled due to lack of time in a full programme.

#### RESULTS

NOVICE TEAM 1. Wight/Dickson/Mackinnon

DIV 4 TEAM 1. Wilkie/McDonald/Stewart

NOVICE C1 1. J. Brown (Wallace)

NOVICE C2 1. Currie/Gillies (W. Lothian)

DIV 3 C1 1. B. McMorris (Uddingston)

OPEN C2 1. Prentice/Forrest

#### ROLLING COMPETITION

David McWhirter ... 5 Rolls 10.7 secs

DIV 4 LADIES 1. Karen Sharp (R.N.K.A.)

DIV 4 MEN 1. D. Wilkie (J) (Forth)

NOVICE LADIES 1. Marta Struthers (GUCC)

NOVICE MEN 1. J. Pickering (R.N.K.A.)

JUDGES 1. S. Ramage (Forth)

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#### DIV 2/3 AND SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS - SEPTEMBER 11/12th 1982 GRANDTULLY. A.S.R. Dundee White Water Club

The Championships rolled on smoothly over the weekend, complemented by the Division two and three events. Unfortunately the river changed drastically on the Sunday and meant that Juniors, who had relatively easy runs in the ranking events of the morning, were not considered in the championship event in the afternoon which took place in much harder water conditions. This also meant Ladies re-runs in the afternoon did not have a hope of catching the morning leaders.

However, until slaloms are run at specially constructed dams, with wind-breaks and electronic judging, we must accept the imperfections in the fairness of the competition.

Rules, however, can be changed. Alan Meikle and I watched Tony Leaver over the last few gates. I said "that was a 50", Alan disagreed. Later we found the Judge had given the 50. Any rule which can be so differently interpreted by two top paddlers, and which for a minute mistake can add on 33% of this paddler's score, and mean the difference between 1st and 10th, must be changed.

#### RESULTS

|                          |                     |            |       |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------|
| <u>DIVISION 2 MEN</u>    | 1. M. Delaney (Y)   | W. Lothian | 179.7 |
|                          | 2. N. Underwood     | Sunderland | 180.8 |
|                          | 3. J. Kinnear (Y)   | Mold       | 181.5 |
| <u>DIVISION 3 MEN</u>    | 1. J. Costello      | G.K.C.     | 256.2 |
|                          | 2. D. Easton (Y)    | Wallace    | 256.7 |
|                          | 3. M. Glasby        | RAFCA      | 261.3 |
| <u>DIVISION 2 LADIES</u> | 1. C. Gillies (Y)   | Wallace    | 249.4 |
|                          | 2. J. Walker        | Fife       | 258.7 |
| <u>DIVISION 3 LADIES</u> | 1. C. Outred (Y)    | Wallace    | 357.9 |
|                          | 2. D. Riddell Black | S'clyde    | 381.1 |
| <u>DIVISION 2 C2</u>     | 1. England/Roland   | RNKA       | 259.6 |
| <u>DIVISION 2 C1</u>     | 1. C. Brown (Y)     | Wallace    | 238.4 |
| <u>JUDGES</u>            | 1. N. Jones         | Carlisle   | 200.0 |

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

|                             |    |                          |             |       |
|-----------------------------|----|--------------------------|-------------|-------|
| <u>MEN</u>                  | 1. | N. Baxter                | Forth       | 166.6 |
|                             | 2. | G. Robertson             | Viking      | 171.8 |
|                             | 3. | A. Meikle                | Strathclyde | 178.5 |
| <u>LADIES</u>               | 1. | S. Ward                  | Forth       | 184.8 |
|                             | 2. | J. Wilson                | Forth       | 195.6 |
|                             | 3. | S. Malone                | Forth       | 202.8 |
| <u>C1</u>                   | 1. | A. Munro                 | Forth       | 193.6 |
| <u>C2</u>                   | 1. | Waring/Lonie             | O.A.P.      | 751.0 |
| <u>TEAM MEN DIV 2</u>       |    |                          |             |       |
|                             | 1. | Moffat/Currie/Delaney    | Forth       | 211.0 |
| <u>DIV 3</u>                |    |                          |             |       |
|                             | 1. | Coulthard/Golding/Glasby | R.A.F.C.A.  | 356.7 |
| <u>SCOTTISH CHAMPS TEAM</u> |    |                          |             |       |
|                             | 1. | Anderson/Jordan/Baxter   | Forth       | 196.4 |

\*\*\*\*\*

PAN-AM CUP 1982 - 17th AUGUST - 7th SEPTEMBER

Jane Wilson

This trip to America was an unsupported British Team effort, i.e. anyone in the British Team was invited provided they could find enough money. In the end 8 people made the trip:- Pat Thorn (team coach and manager); Martyn Hedges, Pete Keane, Jez Taylor and Pete Bell (C1); Graham Helsby (K1M); Sue Garriock and Jane Wilson (K1L).

Most of us went out separately, but all met up at the first event at Jamaica, Vermont, on the West River. Although this river was not particularly difficult, the course was extremely demanding with long crosses and tight staggers requiring a lot of fitness. Some of the team were still recovering from the long trip (and adjusting to the freezing weather), however, we still managed some reasonable results, the best being K1M - 4th Graham; C1 - 4th Martyn; K1L - 5th myself.

On to Canada after this, via some sightseeing and some big river paddling - so big was one river, the Kennebec, in Maine, that I broke my foot when it slipped under the footrest after hitting a rock going down a drop. When we arrived at Jonquiere, N. Quebec for the second stage of the cup, I was hobbling around on crutches with bags of ice round my foot so some quick alterations had to be made to the footrest of my boat to allow me to fit in and paddle the competition.

Jonquiere was the site of the 1979 World Champs and was a great place. Unfortunately the weather let us down with hail and sleet much of the time. Still, the slalom was exciting - Graham and Martyn were again 4th but Sue put in a very good 2nd behind Cathy Hearn here. I was a very average 8th.

After Jonquiere we visited Montreal, watched a baseball game in the Olympic stadium and visited a strip club (not Sue's or my choice for evening entertainment!)

We then went to paddle the R. Ottawa - a great "playing" river with big waves, stoppers and drops - and visited the home of Claudia Kerchoff; Madawaska Kanu Camp. Most of the Pan-Am competitors appeared to be staying here so it was a good laugh and certainly not much of a rest before the final competition at Minden, Ontario. This was on the Gull River and, to say it was exciting is a bit of an understatement - at least 3 competitors looped before gate 1! The course was fairly straightforward but was made difficult by the speed of the water. Again the British paddlers did well; this time Martyn won the Bronze medal and Sue and I were well pleased with 3rd and 2nd places respectively. Luckily for me I had a good first run since I rebroke my foot on my second run between gates 1 and 2 and ended up in hospital having a plaster cast put on - they decided this was the only way to keep me out of a boat!

Graham /

PAN-AM (contd.)

Graham Helsby had been in a good position to win the Pan-Am Cup overall but blew out in this event so the championship went to Andi Wolfhardt of Austria in the K1M. In the Ladies, Cathy Hearn won; I was second, and Sue Garriock 3rd. In the C1, the winner was Davey Hearn, Martyn Hedges unfortunately being pushed down to 4th place by the Americans.

It was a great trip and some of these North American rivers are definitely to be recommended.

Jane Wilson.

F.C.C. SLALOM PLACINGS

Below is a summary of the end of season placings gained by Forth-Canoe Club Slalomists. We congratulate them on their achievements, not only for the excellent results, but for their determination and dedication which has gone into reaching this high standard.

MEN'S K1            Tony Leaver        1st in Div 1  
                      Keith Brown        3rd in Div 1  
                      (Andy Barkham     16th in Div 1    F.C.A.G.)

As team Rainbow/FCC they won Div 1 Men's Teams over the season.

Neil Baxter remains in Premier  
Tony and Keith will be promoted and perhaps Andy Barkham  
(not yet decided)

LADIES K1            Jane Wilson        4th in Premier  
                      Susan Ward        9th in Premier  
                      Sheelagh Malone 2nd in Div 1 (will be promoted to Premier)

BRITISH CHAMPS

Tony Leaver        1st Div 1 Open  
Keith Brown        2nd Div 1 Open  
Jane Wilson        3rd Premier Ladies

Tony and Keith came 2nd in Team

FOSTER'S LAGER

Scottish Men's team - Tony, Keith, Alan Meikle    2nd  
Scottish Ladies team - Susan, Jane, Sheelagh    2nd  
Individual K1L        - Susan 4th, Jane 6th.

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMMENTS

Alan Meikle

If the slalom committee knows that a 3 event home International Championship programme is taking place, surely some financial assistance could be put aside for the paddlers. Why should individual paddlers, paddling for their nation, have to pay their own entry fees? Incredible it may seem, but it happened. On two out of three occasions there was a contribution to petrol and accommodation but this was only small. (It may appear to some people that being in the Scots team is a passport to instant pleasure and enjoyment. I assure you it is not; a lot of sacrifices have to be made, both physical and financial).

Anyone who knows me, knows that I enjoy both slalom and white water racing; to be more precise I enjoy all disciplines (and long may this continue), but I feel that you should not be penalised for paddling more than one. It is an honour to be selected for one, never mind two, Scots teams, but this is soon short lived when you are informed that your grant to attend the event is cut because of dual paddling. So, in effect, because you paddle two disciplines you end up with a grant below that given to others who paddle only one, and in some circumstances, you do more paddling and preparation than some others. However, if you are thinking of paddling both, don't be put off by the above - persevere and enjoy yourself.

I hope that what I have said doesn't offend, but rather stimulates some discussion, some talk, amongst paddlers and officials. This was the purpose for which it was intended. Without constructive criticism some people can become apathetic after becoming successful and without feedback from those involved then there can be no positive progress.



COMING EVENTS FOR NEXT 3 MONTHSDECEMBEROrganiser

|       |                                                    |    |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| 4 - 5 | S.C.A. Annual General Meeting, Glasgow.            |    |
| 12    | Sprint and Marathon Open Day, Stirling.            | 03 |
| 16    | F.C.C. Annual General Meeting, 17 St.Colme Street. |    |
| 18    | Nith WW Div C, Open Race                           | 48 |
| 21    | F.C.C. PARTY Tickets from Gordon Cuthill           |    |

JANUARY 1983

|         |                                           |    |
|---------|-------------------------------------------|----|
| 9       | Teith White Water Marathon (Mass Start)   | 02 |
| 15 - 16 | Slalom Training, Alva                     | 01 |
| 22      | Open Sprint & Marathon Training, Ratho    | 33 |
| 23      | Thistlebrig II WW Race, B, C, Open        | 30 |
| 29      | Scottish Bat Polo Championships, Greenock | 19 |
| 30      | Open Sprint & Marathon Training, Irvine   | 47 |

FEBRUARY

|         |                                                 |    |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| 5       | Open Sprint & Marathon Training, Dullater       | 33 |
| 6       | Clyde WW Race, C, Open                          | 04 |
| 12 - 13 | Slalom Training, Fairnilee                      | 01 |
| 19 - 20 | International Canoe Exhibition, Crystal Palace. |    |
| 20      | Mackerston WW Race, C Open                      | 05 |
| 27      | Open Sprint & Marathon, Stirling                | 02 |

OrganisersTel. No.

|    |                                                                                               |                           |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 | Les Berrow, Firlush Point Field Centre, Killin, Perthshire.                                   |                           |
| 02 | A. Samuel, Auchengillan, Blanefield, Glasgow G63 9AU.                                         | 0360-70473<br>or " -70763 |
| 03 | E.A.Davidson, 9 Lakeside Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife                                                | 0592-266920               |
| 04 | A. Watt, Competition Secretary, Stevenson Building<br>77 Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow. (G.U.C.C.) |                           |
| 05 | K. Fraser, 2 Mansefield Square, Hawick, TD9 8AH                                               | 0450-2148                 |
| 19 | D. Cuthill, 3 Ashburn Gardens, Gourrock                                                       | 0475-36487                |
| 30 | G. Duffin, Competition Secretary, 46, The Pleasance,<br>Edinburgh. (E.U.C.C.)                 | 031-667-1011              |
| 33 | D. Maycock, 6, Saltpans, Charlestown                                                          | Limekilns 872567          |
| 38 | S.U.C.C.: Athletic Union, 90 John Street, Glasgow                                             |                           |
| 47 | Peter Christie, 2 Windlaw Road, Carmunnock, Glasgow                                           | 041-644-1962              |
| 48 | Miss D.Riddell Black, 11 Kirkton Road, Dumbarton, G824AS.                                     |                           |

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## FORTH CANOE CLUB NOTES

Pool Sessions at Sciennes Primary School are now well under way on Tuesday nights and this year we are allowing members to book 4 x 15 minute sessions of instruction. The sessions are very popular and there is a waiting list. Unfortunately we have had to ask those members who have had their 4 sessions to stay away for a few weeks to give others a turn.

I must say that I have been impressed by the progress of one or two of our younger paddlers. If they keep up their present standard then the club should be able to maintain its excellent standard of competition paddlers.

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you interested in a West Coast Tour in 1983? Since the Club was founded in 1934 one of its main activities was the Annual West Coast Tour. This tradition has lapsed in recent years but we hope to resurrect it next year. Day trips and weekend trips will be organised in preparation for a two week cruise probably in July or August. If you are an experienced paddler, or if you just fancy giving it a try, come along to the A.G.M. and find out more.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE F.C.C. CHRISTMAS PARTY is at The Bandwagon in Frederick Street on TUESDAY 21st DECEMBER.

We must sell as many tickets as possible to make this function a success. If you can sell tickets to your friends or if you want a ticket for yourself, please send a stamped addressed envelope to Gordon Cuthill (address on page 1) or telephone 447 3954 to let him know how many you want.

Remember the Club is in need of your support so if you are one of the many who has little or no hours logged on the 'Jack Cuthill Building' project, then at least make an effort now to sell a few extra tickets and help to improve our financial situation.

If any non-member would like to come to the party we'd be delighted to have you with us, so please let Gordon have a stamped addressed envelope with a note of how many tickets you would like.

\*\*\*\*\*

ALL CLUB MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS BECOME DUE FOR RENEWAL ON 1st JANUARY 1983. The Club Committee have considered our probable costs for next year, and recommend the following scale of charges for 1983:-

|                           |        |                   |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Senior Membership         | £10    | (presently £6.50) |
| Junior Membership         | £ 6    | (presently £4.00) |
| Family Membership         | £12.50 | (presently £8.50) |
| Jack Cuthill Building Key | £5     | (presently £3.00) |
| Storage                   | £12.50 | (presently £7.00) |

It is also proposed to introduce a joining fee of £3 for all classes of membership. Fees are due on 1st JANUARY, and any member not re-subscribing by 31st March will be deemed to have resigned. Subsequent re-joining would require payment of the joining fee.

The storage fee is rental of one boat-shelf. The Renter may store any boat on his shelf at his own risk. We recommend S.C.A. membership since the inclusive insurance policy covers the boat while in store.

The above changes will require ratification at the Forth Canoe Club Annual General Meeting which will be held at the SCOTTISH SPORTS COUNCIL OFFICES, 17, St. COLME STREET (continuation of Queen Street) on 16th DECEMBER 1982 at 7 p.m. PROMPT.

# A NEW 'SETTLEMENT' IN PEEBLES-SHIRE

The Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children are indebted to Graham Tiso, Scotland's leading outdoor retailer, and Messrs. Coleman U.K. Inc., for donating two 15' Coleman Canadian Canoes for use at their 'Settlement' / Adventure Camp in Peebles-shire.

The 'Settlement', built in the Summer of '72 by a group of 35 adolescents led by a team of enthusiastic volunteers, began with a 24' x 15' hut known as The Log Cabin and an old showman's wagon. Facilities have continued to be basic with calor gas lighting and heating, chemical toilets, etc. but the four cabins and three caravans which now stand in the Eddleston woodlands provide an adventurous setting for up to 20 children and several adults at any one time. The location is ideal for outdoor pursuits and its proximity to Edinburgh and Glasgow facilitates regular use by city children at weekends. During the Summer months, the camp offers a programme for children from all over Scotland.

Canadian canoes were chosen in preference to kayaks because of their higher participation level, Coleman Canadians in particular because they are made in a virtually unbreakable revolutionary new material called Ram X. This material will limit the down time of the canoes and totally eliminate the time consuming job of repairing conventional wood or G.R.P. canoes therefore ensuring that the canoes will be available for use whenever required.



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