

KAYAK

MAGAZINE



May 1983

A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

<u>Page</u>			
Front	Cover: Recently appointed Forth Canoe Club Coach Cynthia Berry in action at the Teith W.W. Race. Photograph by: Mitchell & Averell, 108 Glasgow Road, Dumbarton, G82 1HQ.		
2.	Editorial ...	...	D.H.C.
3.	Letter to the Editor. ...	...	Craig Douglas
	Think Slalom ...	...	Canoe Focus
4.	News from the Clubs		
5.	Canoe Life Saving Courses		
	Radio Forth Tweed Marathon - 18th September 1983		George Logie
6.	Strathcarron Marathon - Report		
7.	Scottish Marathon Racing Notes ...	...	Ed. Davidson
8.	Kirkcaldy Regatta Report		
	Marathon Musings ...	...	T.D.W.
9.	Canoe Polo, Glenrothes 30th April - Report		Sherrie Carnegie
	Canoe Polo Championships - Report		
10-11	Thoughts on Grandtully Premier and British Team Selection ...	...	Alastair Munro
	Results of Premier Slaloms ...	...	Alastair Munro
11.	Easter Egg Grandtully ...	...	Neil Baxter
12.	White Water Notes ...	...	Andy Morton
	Cancellation of Linlithgow Loch Regatta..		Andy Morton
13.	Invitation to SJOA International W.W. Race. World Championships 1983 in Merano. CANU 1983 Scout/Guide Regatta 10/11 September		
14.	F.C.C. Grandtully Wild Water Race 13th March RESULTS		
	AWE W.W. Race 1st May - REPORT ...	...	Cynthia Berry
15-16	Photo pages		
17-18	Another Old Story ...	...	Betty Cuthill
18.	Water of Leith Race 12th March RESULTS		
19.	Coming Events for next 3 months		
20.	Social, Personal and Otherwise.		
21.	Commodore's Comment.	R.K.R.
22-24	Forth Canoe Club Notes		

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E D I T O R I A L

1984?

SLALOM - A CHANGE?

This subject is discussed regularly in these columns and is again the cause of controversy in view of the latest I.C.F. proposals to change the rules. The major proposals are:

1. A 50% Start List 'cut' after the first runs.
2. Maximum 25 gate course of minimum width 2m ea.
3. Minimum 6 upstream gates
Green gates for even; Red gates for odd.
4. One penalty 20 seconds for one touch
20 seconds for missing the gate.
5. Only one team run.

This would seem to do away with the presentation rules.

Obviously these proposals are very far reaching and will provoke many heated arguments between now and 1984.

After last Grandtully Premier where the shortage of Judges and Officials was a big problem, it was felt by the exhausted organisers that some help in judging could be extracted from Div 1 competitors. More competitors and clubs need to accept the ownership of responsibility for running the event, rather than expecting everything to be provided. The alternative is, smaller events, or fewer rules.

It is a pity in a way that there are so many changes in the rules as this makes relative standards of competition very difficult to gauge. "World Champ was he? - ah! but that was in the days of the Red and Green Gates!"

Slalom will always be changing; the rules are far too complicated at present and the events need more staff to run them than there are competitors.

The 'cut', if adopted, will make events shorter and therefore allow more competitors to enter; or time for extra events for TV, such as G.P. or Rapid Racing.

The main requirement is to get sponsorship into the events and so be able to pay full expenses to top competitors, judges and organisers. This requires TV coverage. Here's to 1984 and the return of "high telly marks".

The new rules if adopted could add much more freedom of expression into slalom with many more ways of doing the course. Six foot wide gates could mean dual slalom possibilities with two paddlers being set off together.

Slalom has changed considerably since it started - remember.... penalties for going under the poles? black gates?maybe not. I hope everyone will approach the new ideas with open minds and not allow prejudice to stifle the development of slalom into a spectator sport.

D.H.C.

From Craig Douglas,
8, Maule Drive,
Thornwood, Glasgow.
1st March 1983.

Dear Editor,

I write in reply to a letter, published in the February (1983) issue of 'KAYAK' from A.S. Ramage.

I feel that I must complain about the attitude expressed in this letter and of its unjust condemnation of the S.C.A.

Mr. Ramage wishes to claim that the new insurance package has been forced on to senior members of the S.C.A. And yet the package was presented to the 1982 Annual General Meeting for acceptance. As it is only senior members that may vote at such occasions the only force available is that of democracy, so certainly no blackmail can be possible.

Further Mr. Ramage proposes that S.C.A. membership fees are too expensive and are a deterrent to possible members. Such an argument is surely unacceptable when it is revealed, in the same issue, that an adult wishing to join his club, of which he is an office bearer, will have to pay more than the equivalent S.C.A. membership fee and yet the benefits available are significantly reduced.

Thus, whilst I do not resent criticism of the S.C.A. or its policies, I do feel that such criticism should be just and fair and wherever possible of a practical nature.

As in other democratic organisations, failure to attend A.G.Ms and to use your vote, shows an acceptance of any decisions made.

Yours,

Craig Douglas.

Editor's Footnote

1. Mr. Ramage did not propose that the SCA membership fees were too expensive - he only criticised the insurance deal.
2. Full details were not available at the 1982 AGM of the SCA.
3. Mr. Ramage's point about the approved lock is valid, although this applies only to theft from roof-racks.
4. £8.50 seems to be a lot to pay for a lock. We will be doing some investigative journalism on this.
5. Membership of Forth Canoe Club is NOT compulsory!

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THINK SLALOM

from B.C.U. FOCUS

A long awaited and badly needed Slalom Video Tape has been released. It lasts for 25 minutes and concentrates on 4, 3 and 2 stroke breakouts and stagger gate sequences. Richard Fox, the British, World and European Men's Kayak Champion provides the introduction describing the various items of equipment involved.

From efficient forward paddling to the gate technique sequences, the skills are put across with commendable clarity and towards the end a repetition of breakouts allows a mental picture of the rhythm and flow of the champion's style to be gained.

The video tape is available at a cost of £31.50 (including p/p) from: Chris Davies, 22, Arcadia Road, Burnham on Crouch, Essex. (The 'system' required should be stated when ordering.)

Finally, please don't cheat. A great deal of money has had to be raised quite apart from the voluntary time and effort expended, to bring about this resource. All profits, once the initial costs have been met, will go to slalom site development. This kind of venture can only succeed if we all pay our way in support of the project.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBSWallace Canoe Club Expedition to France/Spain 1983.

This year's summer trip has been organised round 2 main objectives: some high level competition for our best young paddlers and some grade III and IV white water work.

Our merry band of 16 plan to set off on Wednesday 29th June, travelling for over 30 hours before our first stop at Vichy in France. Here we will spend two days training on the artificial slalom course before moving on to Spain and La Seo D'Urgell. These events will go on for 9 days after which we set off, hopefully for a well-earned rest, at Annecy at the base of the French Alps.

The next 5 days are based at Annecy - where there is a real festive atmosphere culminating on 14th July, Bastille Day celebrations. Whilst based here, we will paddle the famed River Isere and possibly the River Arve. The Isere varies from a good 2+ to 4+, the last 3 mile section being almost continuous grade 4. Only about 6 of the group will paddle this last section.

On 15th July we set off south again towards Briancon and the High Alps. Last year we spent 3 days in this region, a small group paddling the Gyronde (Grade 4 & 4+) and the Guisanne (Grade 2+ to 4). The whole group paddled a Grade 3+ stretch of the Durance. This year we plan 6 days in the area and hope to paddle these rivers again, as well as some new to us, the Claree, Ubuye and the Giuel. Then it's back north to Calais and the ferry and home to Bonnie Scotland!

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Grange Centre Canoe Club This Club has been running from the Centre in Polmont since it opened in June 1978. During these four years we have accumulated enough equipment to offer a complete service to the beginner or the experienced canoeist. With weekly pool sessions we can prepare you in warmth and safety for your first canoe trip. The only qualification required is a genuine interest in canoeing.

During this year, as always, we will be using our mini-bus and trailers to take club members on as many trips as possible, taking in white water, touring and surf canoeing. Our qualified instructors can examine you on both star test and proficiency (all instruction is free of charge).

Our annual membership includes membership to the Grange Centre and all the facilities it provides. Further details from: Jim Watt (Falkirk 34397); Derek Watson (Larbert 554153) or Tony Grant (Linlithgow 4745).

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Central Region Canoe Club This Club continues to run fortnightly trips to the Teith and the Tay. These have included the Teith White Water Marathon on 9th January in which two club members, Len Jamieson and Ron Morton, came first and second; and a trip on the Tay down the Championship White Water Course which finishes at Grandtully.

On Tuesday evenings the club has the use of the pool at Wallace High School from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. This enables members to improve their technique and to practise rolling.

We can now use the Central Region Canoe Equipment which will enable us to accept applications for membership from canoeists who have achieved proficiency standard but do not possess their own canoes.

Further information from: Ian Macadie, 52, The Bryony Tullibody, Clackmannanshire. Tel: Alloa 215853.

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Editor's Note: PLEASE WRITE AND TELL US WHAT YOUR CLUB HAS BEEN DOING OR PLANS TO DO : This page can easily be expanded to cover two sides.

STRATHCARRON MARATHON 24th APRIL - REPORT

The second Strathcarron Marathon took place on Sunday 24th April 1983. A sponsored event to raise funds for Strathcarron Hospice, competitors had either to be sponsored or else make a donation of £5 to the Fund. Sixty teams of 4 competed in relays over a course from Callander to Linlithgow in what for most was a fun event but provided some close competition between the leading teams.

The first leg took runners along 8 miles of road, specially closed by Police, from Callander to Deanston. Competition was mixed, the leader covering the distance in 40 minutes, and the end of the field taking well over the hour. The runners passed over their wrist band 'batons' at the canoeing start for a nine mile flog from Deanston to Kildean Auction Market at Stirling. Notables such as Denny, Morton, Cuthill, John Young, Ewan Patterson, George Logie and Cynthia Berry were in evidence. The handovers were done in a special area and no one was allowed into the area till their number was called. Competitors were supposed to get 5 minutes warning of the approach of the first runner but to D.C.'s annoyance he arrived within 30 seconds of the first warning, catching him unprepared, but ending up with a 4 minute start over the pursuing Alistair Denny. Andy Morton's runner was 20 minutes behind the leader and Andy was so upset he took two minutes off Alistair Denny's time of 52 minutes - passing fortyfive paddlers in the process!

Cyclists took over from the river bank, starting their leg with a sprint of 200 metres over mud to their bikes on the road. The weather had been less than kind all day and the rain seemed to persist for the whole of the 19 miles to Muiravonside Country Park near Linlithgow. Gordon Cuthill put in a fine performance against very professional looking opposition.

The final leg was a 12 mile cross country horse riding circuit. Soggy sweat bands were duly handed over and the riders disappeared for the best part of 2 hours. The weather had improved slightly i.e. the rain had stopped as everyone waited for the leaders to return. There was some excitement as the leading two riders appeared together and galloped up the finishing straight only yards apart. D.C. and G.C.'s rider, Ruth Martin from Bo'ness caught up a 7 minute lead and was first to the post - the trouble was, she went the wrong side of it and had to re-cross. Alistair Denny's rider just pipped her.

The field was well spread out by this time and more waiting was required till all riders had been accounted for and results could be announced. Fortunately the weather had brightened up to make it a very pleasant afternoon and many enjoyed the barbecue and refreshments which were available. The proceedings were unfortunately marred by controversy when an official reported that the two leading riders had been seen taking the wrong route. The outcome was that the 1st and 2nd place teams were disqualified for cutting the course on the final leg.

Congratulations, however, go to "Telford Veterans" who took third place and the winners Trophy, and whose number included the evergreen John Young Senior on the canoeing leg.

All in all a very successful event, and especially so since it raised almost £5,000 for Strathcarron Hospice. However, if the organisers wish to attract the high standard of competitors in future events then the running of the final riding stage particularly must improve. I would suggest that it should be a lot shorter lasting, say, 1 hour; spectators should be able to see more of it, and course marking should be improved to avoid confusion.

If there is any truth in the third time lucky syndrome, then I recommend that you start getting your team organised now for next year's event.

SCOTTISH MARATHON RACING 1983. CANAL/KELVIN RACE 16th APRIL.
Maryhill - Torrance - Kelvin Walkway

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Ed. Davidson.

The first Scottish Marathon of 1983 was not blessed with good weather, although, to be fair, it did not snow. All the more credit to the dedicated paddlers who turned out in force to brave the elements, meet old chums and make new contacts.

It was most enjoyable to see the large variety of craft showing that Marathon is the "peoples race", with the flexibility of the Divisional System and incorporating Junior, Juvenile and Veteran, slalom, touring, sea kayak, sprint K1 and white water racers in their gay livery making a very colourful occasion.

The organisers coped well with the large numbers in Divisions 1 and 4, the Canal width which dictates the maximum abreast, and the usual gamesmanship up front in Division 1.

From the outset it was obvious that Roddy Christie was going for a new course record burning hard off the start until the pack was strung out behind, with Neil Davidson leading the chasers. Division 3 lined up and, yes, a capsized on the line, but fortunately no damage and the plucky lady, a little drookit, bailed out and undaunted set off in pursuit. Paul O'Brien and Allison Edwards soon burned off their Veteran Coach to his delight and had a ding dong battle but took the wrong fork and Veteran slipped past, but only momentarily.

Division 4 start was the most colourful with the intrepid veterans among the mass of assorted craft determined to do the long course and did so, Bruce Beeley showing he has not lost his touch and promising "it's only in preparation for the Glasgow - Edinburgh Marathon". Good luck Bruce; and Roger Hodgson a mountain climber on only his fifth time in a kayak in fifteen years, proving he would be ready for the Strathcarron Marathon the following weekend. Roderick Christie (Irvine) did smash the course record in a new time of 1.35.57. Neil Davidson came second also taking the Junior Cup, and John Adair third, but John's Junior course record remained intact.

Allison Edwards (KCC) was first lady but did not beat her course record; and Ed Davidson (KCC) won a personal battle with himself by completing the race in just under the 2 hours which has eluded him for the past three years.

The slalom boats and a WW racer tried to reach the Clyde Estuary and declared the stretch beyond the finish line to have "made their day".

I thank the organisers for a good race and the "tail end charlies" for ensuring that all the paddlers were followed home. I compliment the paddlers and support crews for their cheery outlook and enjoyable company.

<u>DIV 1/2</u>	1st	110	R.Christie	Irvine CC.	1 hr	35 mins	37 secs.
	2nd	103	N. Davidson (J)	Kirkcaldy CC.	1 hr	39 mins	01 secs
		102	J. Adair	Irvine CC.	-	-	-
<u>DIV 3.</u>	1st	323	P. O'Brien (J)	Kirkcaldy CC	1 hr	53 mins	20 secs.
	2nd	303	A. Edwards (L)	Kirkcaldy CC	1 hr	53 mins	23 secs.
		302	E. Davidson (V)	Kirkcaldy CC	1 hr	59 mins	13 secs.
<u>DIV 4</u>	1st	407	R. McKinnon	Strathclyde Uni. CC.	1 hr	50 mins	50 secs.
	2nd	406	H. Gordon	Strathclyde Uni. CC	2 hrs	01 mins	55 secs.
		410	B. Beeley (V)	Irvine CC	2 hrs	04 mins	13 secs.
<u>OPEN</u>	1st	307	R. Duffus	Irvine CC		44 mins	52 secs.
	2nd	L10	J. Little	Irvine CC.		46 mins	31 secs.
		505	I. Park	Craigendoran Scouts	1 hr	10 mins	28 secs.

The Shield for overall winner was awarded to R. Christie of Irvine Canoe Club and the Cup for First Junior was won by N. Davidson of Kirkcaldy Canoe Club. Smaller prizes were received by 1st and 2nd in all Divisions.

SPECIAL NOTICE THE LOCH KEN MARATHON will now be held on SUNDAY 17th JULY and not on 26th June, as the Leukaemia event now takes place on that date.

KIRKCALDY REGATTA - SUNDAY 1st MAY 1983 - REPORT

Kirkcaldy Canoe Club's Regatta on Kinghorn Loch was a pleasantly informal affair, with Kirkcaldy entering a strong Junior field.

The Junior Trophy, however, was won by Chris Harstad, member of Forth C.C. who returns to Norway at the end of May. Chris, with Neil Davidson, won both Senior and Junior K2 against strong opposition from Irvine and Forth. Jackie Little of Irvine won the Ladies' Open, with Margaret Kinninmonth of Kirkcaldy winning the Clubs' event. Neil Davidson shared the Open Men's Trophy with Andy Morton.

Winner of the Scottish u/17 K1 was Paul O'Brien and the u/15 K1 was Chris O'Brien, both Kirkcaldy CC; while the pair teamed up to win the u/17 Scottish K2 Championship against strong opposition. Unfortunately it was damp, cold and windy, but the barbecue gave some comfort to the stalwart canoeists and officials.

MARATHON MUSINGS

T.D.W.

A recent visit to Nottingham was rewarded by an unexpected meeting with Lynda Morrison who is obviously enjoying the canoeing scene down there. (Not too surprising when you see the facilities Nottingham Kayak Club offer). Lynda wishes to be remembered to her friends in Scotland and looks forward to seeing them at events over the season.

Disguised in a full set of whiskers, large buoyancy aid and slalom canoe, it was difficult to recognise Gilbert Spiers devoting a Saturday afternoon to imparting the basics to a group of newcomers. The enjoyment of this particular scene was only momentarily lessened by the thought that it was embryo English paddlers who were benefiting from Gilbert's skill and experience.

In what may appear to be a backward step, the Marathon Committee has agreed to encourage clubs to provide classes for slalom and WW Racers at Marathons in an attempt to persuade more paddlers to these events. (It works in the Forth & Clyde Canal race). The trick will be to get these paddlers sufficiently 'hooked' to want to progress from there in Long Distance Racing.

At a Marathon Committee meeting some time back, it was proposed that the selectors, elected on a previous occasion, should be kept anonymous. As the debate closed, one member enquired if he, at least, could be let in on the secret. It's a good job he did. It turned out HE was one of them! I know..... I was that selector.....

We have heard the expression "pulling the birds" but few of us can claim to have done so from the other side of the world as has Lou Barrie. Married in London on April 16th, Lou met his wife-to-be in Australia when down under for last year's Commonwealth events. Congratulations to Lou and Jackie whom we look forward to seeing in Scotland.

TWICKENHAM CANOE CENTRE
'SAGA'

Touring Single Kayak

Excellent Condition

B.R.Green deck/white hull.

T.A.Bs. Deck Line. Paddle.

Roof-rack. £90.00

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after 7 p.m.

P & H 'UMNAK' Sea Kayak

Brand new and unused

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this superb boat.

Red hull and deck. Rear deck
hatch and b/head. Deck lines
and spare paddle elastics.

Toggles. Set brand new TABs.

Spray deck and paddle kit incl.

£210.00. Ian Hamilton on
041-942-3391 after 7 pm.

The first Canoe Polo competition to be staged at Glenrothes was organised by Fife Canoeing Activities Group who invited six men's teams to play; West Lothian; Canoe Polo Club; Fife Canoeing Activities Group; Strathclyde University and two English teams 'Stubbers' from Essex, and Leeds 'A'. Also three Ladies' teams: Canoe Polo Club Ladies; Strathclyde University Ladies and Leeds Ladies.

The winners from the first men's section - Stubbers, played the runners-up of the second men's section - Leeds 'A'. The second semi-final was between the runners-up of section one and the winners of section two - Canoe Polo Club versus Strathclyde University.

The Final was between Stubbers and Strathclyde University with Stubbers winning 3-0. The winners of the Ladies Section were Leeds who won both their games.

The Competition was very well organised and we were lucky to have Pete Mace from Leeds, who is a qualified referee, to supervise the proceedings. It was, however, noticeable that the Scots did not know the rules and seemed to be deaf and blind when it came to referees' signals. Dumb, however, they were NOT and before the next competition I suggest certain people in Scottish canoeing read the rules before arguing with qualified referees.

RESULTS

<u>Section One</u>	<u>Ladies</u>
West Lothian v. Stubbers	0 - 7
Canoe Polo Club v W.Loathian	6 - 0
Canoe Polo Club v Stubbers	0 - 6
	<u>Strathclyde Uni v Leeds Ladies</u> 0 - 9
	C.P.C. Ladies v Strathclyde Uni 1 - 0
	Leeds Ladies v C.P.C.Ladies 6 - 0
<u>Section Two</u>	<u>Semi-Finals</u>
F.C.A.G. v. Strathclyde Uni.	1 - 6
Leeds 'A' v F.C.A.G.	6 - 0
Strathclyde Uni v. Leeds	3 - 2
	Stubbers v. Leeds 'A' 5 - 1
	C.P.C. v. Strathclyde 2 - 3
	<u>FINAL</u>
	Stubbers v Strathclyde Uni 3 - 0

14th MAY 1983

THE WEST OF SCOTLAND OPEN CANOE POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS were held for the third year at Eastwood Baths, Glasgow. There were 10 teams competing for a new prize called the "Afton Trophy" (Donated by Afton Canoes), which was won by Canoe Polo Club who beat Strathclyde University in the finals 7 - 1 (CPC were the winners last year).

The prize for the first mixed team was won by "CPC Mixed Team".

There was also a rolling competition for a prize donated by Blacks of Greenock (a camping stove) which was won by Steve Laing of Glasgow University.

CPC OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 21-22 May were held out of doors on the river at the Leny Slalom. This was a relaxed and enjoyable competition, the paddlers showing more enthusiasm than skill. The CPC beat a Scratch Team in the final 2 - 1 after extra time.

The weather on the Saturday was overcast but dry, but on the Sunday the heavens opened and everywhere became a sea of mud. The canoe polo event was held on the Saturday evening.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR REPORTS, STORIES AND GOSSIP FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF "KAYAK" BY THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST.

Well, once again the four or five committed slalomists in Scotland have messed it up. Some of them have "trained" all winter. Some are supposed to do nothing else, or should I say, have nothing else to do, and what do we see for the end results?

Excluding the Hambleton premier slalom where, due to geographical problems, we always have reduced numbers, all non-exiled Scots have failed miserably to produce the results that they promised. I should say that they specifically failed to produce these results when they most needed them.

By glancing at the results below we can see that at both British Team Selection Events even with the advantage of home water at Grandtully,

British Team Selection

	<u>Grandtully</u>	<u>Tryweryn</u>	<u>Washburn</u>
Best Scot K1	109%	112%	106.8%
as % of winner K1W	106.6%	107%	104%

the Scottish paddler could not get within 9% in K1M and 6.6% in K1W, but at a normal routine premier K1M was 6.8% down and K1W only 4% from the winner.

I leave you to draw your own conclusions, but mine would simply be that:

- a) Even the "committed" Scottish based paddlers do not approach the sport with the same semi-professional attitude that is displayed by their southern counterparts.
- b) There is, with only one exception, no coaching support being provided to home based paddlers. Perhaps it's time some of our more senior paddlers gave up serious competitive canoeing, put the canoes out to stud, and gave something back to the sport of which they have only too readily taken.
- c) At this present time the money which is being allocated by the Slalom Committee for Scottish Team International competition would be more appropriately spent on financing basic slalom facilities and paying, not paddlers, but coaches' expenses because no elite slalomists of international standard will be produced by the present system in Scotland.

Should any reader have any opinions on the above, I would be more than glad to hear them.

GRANDTULLY

Premier K1

1. R. FOX	190.8	Staff & Stone/Pyranha
2. P. McCONKEY	199.8	" "
3. R. MAINWARING	200.1	RAFCA
6. J. DOLAN	206.3	Manchester
9. N. BAXTER	208.4	FORTH
17. T. LEAVER	213.3	FORTH/EUCC
19. K. BROWN	214.6	FORTH/EUCC

Premier LADIES

1. S. GARRIOCK	223.4	Ribble
4. J. WILSON	238.2	FORTH
6. S. WARD	253.6	EUCC/FORTH

TRYWERYN

1. R. FOX	194.5	Staff & Stone
2. J. DOLAN	206.0	Manchester
3. G. GLADWIN	207.2	Staff & Stone
14. N. BAXTER	213.3+5	FORTH
35. T. LEAVER	217.2+10	FORTH
1. J. RODERICK	223+5	Staff & Stone
5. S. WARD	239+5	EUCC/FORTH
6. J. WILSON	237+20	FORTH

WASHBURN /

WASHBURN

Premier K1

- 1. R. FOX 190.3 Staff & Stone
- 2. R. MAINWARING 193.5 RAFCA
- 3. P. McCONKEY 195.7 Staff & Stone
- 5. J. DOLAN 198.9 Manchester
- 9. T. LEAVER 203.0 FORTH
- 12. N. BAXTER 205.9 "
- 19. K. BROWN 208.9 "

Premier LADIES

- 1. E. SHARMAN 206
- 2. J. WILSON 210 + 5
- 6. S. WARD

BRITISH TEAM SELECTION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, MERANO, ITALY.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------|----|-----------|
| K1M | R. FOX | K1W | L. SHARMAN | C1 | M. HEDGES |
| | R. MAINWARING | | J. RODERICK | | P. KEANE |
| | J. DOLAN | | S. GARRIOCK | | J. TAYLOR |
| | P. McCONKEY | | G. ALLEN | | P. BELL |
| C2 | JAMIESON/WILLIAMS | | | | |
| | JOCE/OWEN | | | | |
| | SMITH/SMITH | | | | |

SCOTTISH PADDLERS WERE SELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|----------------------|----|
| J. WILSON | FORTH | BRITISH 'B' TEAM | |
| S. WARD | FORTH/EUCC | BRITISH 'B' TEAM | |
| A. CURRIE | WEST LOTHIAN | BRITISH YOUTH B TEAM | K1 |
| I. SIMPSON | WALLACE H.S. | BRITISH YOUTH B TEAM | K1 |
| C. BROWN | WALLACE H.S. | BRITISH YOUTH A TEAM | C1 |

EASTER EGG GRANDTULLY

Neil Baxter

Unfortunately the only eggs that rolled were the ones on the top of those 'ch, so hunky!' Scottish paddlers - mainly through lack of results rather than for festive reasons.

Down the course they rolled, hitting poles or looking as if they had never set eyes on the place; into break-outs they'd practised in cold blizzards with their eyes shut to precision, only to have the wrong line somewhere along it, or their paddles connecting the paint of our wonderful gates - how the wind manages to move them, no matter how strong it blows, is beyond belief!.... to those who put them up that is.

The newly elected saints of S.C.A. slalom events (Jim McPherson and Scott Ramage) were "on the ball", as they say - without a few "backhanded" and Blackmailish "bringing up of paddlers past", I doubt if any judges would have endured the scorching sun and general hotness of this weekend - "Ta" to them from all.

A few changes were noticed this year - the absence of Jock and Bluebell in C2, who in the past have added a great deal to Scotland's prestige.

Also some changes in the paddlers' and organisers' attitudes. With some people, time, hard work, no sleep, no glory, no fame, no glamour, no thanks, no nothing.....and the hard long days spent devoting one's life and energies to placing carbon fibres between wood at speed, never seems to falter - on and on they stride - happy as Montesas (general term for happy ex-paddlers)! And others, along with the contented, stride on - but some are beginning to realise that life doesn't start at 'GO' and finish on David's Electric Eyes! Maybe I shouldn't notice things like that.

Anyway, here's to year 2083 Easter Grandtully! and a big T.S. to all who see it!

Neil Baxter (Wully)
F.C.C.P.R.II
Hut key No. 25.
Montesa rider

Following a recent meeting of the W.W. committee it is likely that entry fees in some events next year will be considerably lower to try to encourage more participation in river racing. In particular the Open fee will probably drop to £1 instead of the present £2.50, and the lower divisions will have to pay less to enter. The 50p fee for under eighteens will continue. The W.W. committee levies might drop as a result of these changes, but it is hoped that the increased participation will offset the lower levies.

White Water marathons are to be supported again this coming season and it is hoped to have a Potarch to Banchory race, and a Teith Marathon. Further details will appear in the next issue of "KAYAK".

Following a complaint about timing of late entries in W.W. events, the committee have decided to tighten up the rules regarding late arrivals at the start line. There is no particular objection to entries on the day if the organisers can cope with the late arrivals. However, there is an objection if a competitor does not arrive on time at the start line. This upsets the rhythm of the starting procedure and results in the late arrival paddling at a later time when conditions might have altered, or worse, when some error in timing might have arisen.

Consequently, later ARRIVALS may find they are not ranked or eligible for a prize if they cannot start within a reasonable time of their proper start time. They will only receive a time for their run down the course. The new rules will be outlined in more detail before next season.

A team of between 6 and 10 paddlers will be going to Spain for two weeks in July. Selection will be made within the next few weeks when the Team Manager returns from work abroad.

Anyone requiring information should contact: David Wolfe, 4, West Clifton Cottages, East Calder, West Lothian. Tel: 031-333-3836.

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CANCELLATION OF LINLITHGOW LOCH REGATTASA. MORTON

Last year a moderately successful regatta was held on Linlithgow Loch and the Sprint committee took up the offer of two Regattas this year, a Sunday event for 500m and 10,000m and a Thursday evening event for 10,000m. It was perhaps unwise of them to rank these events as Scottish Championship events especially since the 500m events would be run without lanes.

However, the 10,000m course is an excellent one and offers exciting racing and viewing for both competitors and spectators respectively, as there are five circuits of the loch and all pass very close to the point where the start and finish line is placed.

Moreover, the Outdoor Centre, the Sailing Club and the Scottish Development Department have been most helpful in allowing us to hold races on the loch, offering changing facilities, showers, two rescue boats and buoys for around £30 all together.

The committee cancelled the Regattas with two weeks notice and changed the date of the Sunday regatta to Saturday. They did this because they had received a considerable amount of sponsorship through the good work of Drew Samuel and were therefore able to pay for the use of Strathclyde Park which has a more suitable 500m and 10,000m course. As a consequence some paddlers were not able to paddle because of the change of date. I had to apologise to the three parties mentioned above and the Sprint Committee had the doubtful privilege of spending a lot of money on a poorly attended Regatta.

For purely personal and selfish reasons I was pleased to be relieved of the burden of organisation of the hard ware for the Linlithgow Regattas, but I am surprised at the readiness of the Sprint Committee to hand out large sums of money for the questionable privilege of the "perfect course". Is this what paddlers really want? Would it not be better to subsidise travel to Nottingham; to support more low key events in Scotland and to send more teams abroad?

For the third year Norway is staging the Sjoa International Wild Water Race on July 30th and 31st. This year, however, the race will be run down the upper part of Sjoa - a new and even more exciting course of continuous grade IV and up to V at places depending on water level. Some of the international canoeists who have previously taken part in the Sjoa WW have also paddled this course and will be able to tell you about it.

The course consists of fast flowing water of grade IV or maybe VI depending on the water level. There are big waves and some diagonal stoppers and a few boils, but there are no boatwrecking rocks anywhere. Since Sjoa is a glacier river and there is plenty of snow in the mountains this year, there should be lots of water for the race.

The organisers therefore invite all experienced paddlers from any Club to take part in SJOA '83 on the 30th and 31st JULY, accepted in all classes, individual and team. This year, on Saturday night, the organisers will arrange a get-together-party, where all competitors are welcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE HAD FROM GORDON CUTHILL. Tel. 031-447-3954.

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1983 IN MERANO/ITA

The final programme of the next World Championships in Slalom and Wild Water is published now:

|        |          |                                                                      |
|--------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day 1: | 11. 6.83 | 20.00 hrs. Reception                                                 |
| Day 2: | 12. 6.83 | Opening Ceremony                                                     |
| Day 3: | 13. 6.83 | Wild Water - Non stop training                                       |
| Day 4: | 14. 6.83 | Individual events                                                    |
| Day 5: | 15. 6.83 | Team Events                                                          |
| Day 6: | 16. 6.83 | Rest day                                                             |
| Day 7: | 17. 6.83 | Morning - Non stop training.<br>Afternoon, K1 Women<br>C1 and C2 mix |
| Day 8: | 18. 6.83 | Morning: Non stop training.<br>Afternoon: K1 men, C2.                |
| Day 9: | 19. 6.83 | Team events in Slalom,<br>Grand Prix and Closing Ceremony.           |

Both courses are on the Passer River, Wildwater from St. Martin to Lazag ca. 8 kilometres, Slalom from Gilfklamm to the promenade hall.

Information and questions regarding rooms: Kurverwaltung Meran,  
Telephone 35 223  
Telex 400026

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PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH 'KAYAK' IF YOU ARE PLANNING A TRIP TO THE WORLDS.

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CANU 1983

The Scottish National Scout and Guide Canoe Regatta will be held on 10/11 September at Monikie Country Park, by Monifieth, Dundee. Information will be in the Scottish Scout News in June, and Entry Forms may be had from Scottish Scout Headquarters, 18 Hanover Street, Edinburgh. This is a Scout/Guide confined event.

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F.C.C. GRANDTULLY WILD WATER RACE - Sunday, 13th March 1983. RESULTS

Class: MENS' K1 DIV A

1 * J. HIBBLE	LEEDS	16:32.58	50. A. MORRISON	IRVINE	19:28.58
2.* DRH TAYLOR	N.K.C.	16:49.69	51. I. LINN	RWSABC	19:31.03
3.* M. SMITH	LEEDS	17:05.61	52. C. DOUGLAS	GUCC	19:34.55
4. A. BAYLISS	CHESTER	17:14.40	53. R. McKINNON	SUCC	19:36.49
5. M. SWALLOW	CHESTER	17:16.14	54. A. BOWNES	RWSABC	19:41.65
9. K. FRASER	ROXBURGH	17:28.79	55. A. WATT	GUCC	19:55.99
15. A. DENNY	ROXBURGH	17:56.02			
21. A. MORTON	FORTH	18:11.41			
38. I. BOWNES	RWSABC	18:43.45			
39. A. MEIKLE	SUCC	18:50.88			
40. A. DAVEY	RAFCA	18:55.96			
44. M. STODDART	AUCC	19:05.27			
47. S. McCARTNEY	PAISLEY _{u 18}	19:17.43			
48. K. McNAIR	SUCC	19:20.86			

MEN'S K1 DIV B

3. E. PHIMISTER	AUCC	19:11.84
4. L. KIRKPATRICK	-	19:23.41
5. J. RINGWOOD	SUCC	19:49.66
6. J. HORNE	ALSAGER	19:54.01
7. J. COSTELLO	FORTH	20:07.84
9. E. LOVIE	AKC	20:20.38
11. S. ARNOLD	GUCC	20:33.68
12. E. FRASER	SELKIRK	21:06.25

Class: LADIES K1 DIV A

1. *A. PLANT	-	18:11.33
2. *G. ROBBIE	SUCC	18:35.16
7. D. RIDDELL	BLACK SUCC	20:38.87
9. J. BEVAN	GUCC	22:52.03

OPEN MEN'S K1

1. *N. MORRIS	ALSAGER	21:03.66
2. R. WILLIAMSON	RWSABC	21:11.20 _{u/16}

SCOTTISH W.W. RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS - GRANDTULLY - 13th MARCH 1983. RESULTS

MEN'S K1

1.*K. FRASER	ROXBURGH	17:28.79	7. A. MEIKLE	SUCC	18:50.88
2.*A. DENNY	ROXBURGH	17:56.02	8. T. McLEAN	Indep	19:04.11
3.*A. MORTON	FORTH	18:11.41	9. M. STODDART	AUCC	19:05.27
4. K. BAIN	SUCC	18:18.36	10. E. PHIMISTER	AUCC	19:11.84
5. J. KNOX	ROXBURGH	18:29.70	11. K. BRYCE	SUCC	19:12.80
6. I. BOWNES	RWSABC	18:43.45	12.* S. McCARTNEY	PAISLEY	19:17.43

1st u/18

LADIES K1

1.*G. ROBBIE	SUCC	18:35.16
2.*D. RIDDELL	BLACK SUCC	20:38.87
3. J. BEVAN	GUCC	22:52.03

TEAM EVENT

1.* DENNY/FRASER/KNOX	ROX	18:42.94
2. LINN/BOWNES/BOWNES	RWS	20:03.47

AWE W.W. RACE - 1st MAY 1983 REPORT

Cynthia Berry

We arrived earlyish Sunday morning, none the better from our canoe polo exploits against some strong English teams the evening before.

There was a reasonable entry, probably due to the fact that it was the last River Race of the season, and a decent enough amount of water had been let out to ensure a good race.

A pretty fast flowing current made the Graveyard/Boulder Field the trickiest part of the course. Further down, the Slalom Site was pretty well populated with Slalom Paddlers perfecting their "DIRTY BIG TAIL DIPS". They were mainly paddlers that had bailed out from the Teith Slalom down in Callander and come up for a guaranteed water release. An excellent River Race course finishing just above the weir at the Power Station.

All in all, a good day and Race was had by all. Definitely a good way to round off the River Race season.

MEN'S OPEN

1. Alistair Denny
2. Kenny Bain

LADIES OPEN

1. Cynthia Berry
2. Rhona Wolfe

SPECIAL NOTICE

THE LEUKAEMIA EVENT WILL NOW BE HELD ON SUNDAY 26th JUNE AND NOT AS PREVIOUSLY INTIMATED.

Entrants are asked to off-load their boats at Loch Tay Leisure Centre where changing facilities will be available. Tea/Coffee etc. may also be had. Drivers are asked to park with consideration of others and to remove their vehicles to the Grandtully station yard as soon as they are changed. Transport from Grandtully every 1/2 hour from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. to the start.



Chris Harstad (left) winner of the Junior Trophy at Kirkcaldy Regatta on 1st May seen here with Neil Davidson training on the Canal at Ratho.

Neil flew out to represent G.B. in the Belgian International Sprint Regatta 7 - 8th May.



Nine members of Dundee W.W. Club on their sponsored paddle in sea kayaks from Kenmore to Perth on 20th February 1983.

They paddled the 50 miles in relays of teams of three to raise £500 for a Cancer 'Laser Scalpel' Appeal.



Back 30 years.....See page 17.

Clive Richard, Betty Cuthill, Mary Green, Georgie Gray, Freddie Smith, Kathleen Tootill, Cyril McCombe, Jean Hamilton, Joan Aldridge and Sam Green, about to portage from Ford at the foot of Loch Awe, to Craignish.

Photo by Jack Cuthill.

RADIO FORTH

Close to you

The TWEED MARATHON will be quite different this year!

RADIO FORTH have agreed to sponsor a race for beginners to canoeing in Marathons. They have offered us a Trophy which we intend to use for a Team Race from Fairnilee to Melrose.
Date..... 18th SEPTEMBER.

Jim Dolan, pictured here at Grandtully, has been selected for the British World Championship Team for the second consecutive time.

Jim, one of Britain's most experienced slalomists started canoeing with Edinburgh Schools in 1970 and after 10 years' dedicated training, and many successes, is now performing better than he has ever done.

We wish him good luck in Merano.

Team up with

**Forth
Canoe Club**

I remember well the 1953 West Coast Tour when 9 of us took the train to Loch Awe Station, built our canoes on the station platform, launched, and paddled across the Loch to a campsite just opposite. We spent two days paddling down the loch, absolutely battling against the elements. We stopped to explore Ardchonnell Castle and also the Island of Inishail where we discovered an ancient burying ground of the Clan Macarthur, all overgrown and tangled. We eventually reached the southern end of the Loch where we were to pick up Mary and Sam Green - regular west coast tourers from Birmingham -I now leave Mary to tell the story which was printed in the "Canoe Camper" of 1953 (Autumn number).....entitled "Return of the Sassenach".....

For the sixth time we crossed the border, making westwards to the Argyllshire coast. Somewhere we hoped to pick up the rest of the party, but what had appeared an easy task as we looked at the map at home, grew in difficulty as Loch Awe, from a two-inch strip on the map spread before our eyes into a great sea devoid of canoeists. We found them a day late at the southern end of the loch, tired after a strenuous journey against a head wind. A cattle lorry took the seven canoes and 11 bodies over to Ardforn on Loch Craignish, where a kindly Western Isles minister allowed us to camp by the little kirk down on the foreshore.

A gay day saw us away to catch the ebb tide round Craignish Point leaving the Rev. and Mrs. MacKay sitting side by side on a rock at the water's edge. As we neared the point we could see jumping white waves and hear the rush of the water as it was drawn through the Dorus Mor down into the whirlpool of the Corryvreckan, but as the canoe began to speed down the current a sharp pull on the left paddle soon brought us round into the quiet water beyond the point. A lunch ashore, and we set out to cross to the island of Shuna, but part way across mists began to shroud the contours of the islands and with two broken rudders in the party, progress was slow. At length we found a sheltered bay, just as we had planned from the map. A small piece of flat, wettish exposed ground was crowded with our eight tents, with wonderful views across to islands still wrapped in mist. But peace was not to be: unidentified white water could be seen at the northern end of the island, contours of visible land did not coincide with the map, a mysterious conical buoy was spotted where none should be. With arguments, compass and maps it was decided that we were not on Shuna, but Scarba. The passage to Scarba is difficult, for at certain states of the tide the rip is too strong, and we must have crossed in the short slack-water period.

Orders were given by the captain to be away before eight the following morning - an unheard-of performance followed in that we were actually out on the water at 7.40 a.m. to catch the slack water for the crossing to south Luing, with the porpoises curling in the water beside us. By nine, we were breakfasting on Luing, then away with the tide fast down the Sound of Shuna, past seal covered islets, the seals see-sawing down into the water then, overcome with curiosity, surfacing for a further peep at us. The land on either side was now drawing closer until at Clachan we came to the bridge joining Seil island to the mainland. The water is so clear along these coasts that whenever a stop is made the underwater world is a fascinating picture at your feet. A break at the inn, and we were again out into open sea and across to the west coast of Kerrera, our address the first bay down on the right. A rocky beach, wide views over the water to Mull, a running burn and a broad stretch of green turf was our resting place for the weekend. Shopping and dinner in Oban, washing, fishing and exploring the island castle were the order of the day, with a driftwood fire on the beach at night.

Monday brought a high wind, but on Tuesday we set out with a spanking breeze from the south pushing us on. Wind and waves made life interesting as we watched the other canoes rising and falling gently almost out of sight, and the great lazy waves, white flecked, came curling along the deck. We entered Loch Linnhe and meant to explore Loch Creran but with wind and tide making chaos of the water we crossed the rip, slipping many yards sideways before landing and camping.

COMING EVENTS FOR NEXT 3 MONTHS

19
Organiser

<u>JUNE</u>	4	KIRKINTILLOCH REGATTA	KIRKINTILLOCH			28
	5	LUBNAIG MARATHON, K1 MARATHON	LOCH LUBNAIG, CALLANDER	1 pm		02
	9	SCOTTISH K1 10,000M 5,000M 3,000M.	LINLITHGOW LOCH	7 pm		27
	11 -12	TEVIOT BRIDGE, 4, N, J.	KELSO			35
	11	LOCH LOMOND MARATHON	LUSS, LOCH LOMOND			25
	12	ROWARDENNAN FUN REGATTA	ROWARDENNAN YOUTH HOSTEL, LOCH LOMOND	1 pm		22
	26	LEUKAEMIA EVENT	KENMORE - GRANDTULLY	10 am		29
<u>JULY</u>	3	KIRKCALDY CC MARATHON	STANLEY, RIVER TAY	12 noon		15
	2 -3	FAIRNILEE, BRITISH SCHOOLS SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS.	FAIRNILEE, SELKIRK.			34
	9-10	FAIRNILEE 4, N, J.	FAIRNILEE, SELKIRK			13
	17	LOCH KEN MARATHON.	LOCH KEN, DUMFRIES-SHIRE	12 noon		32
<u>AUGUST</u>	14.	FORTH & CLYDE MARATHON	KIRKINTILLOCH	12 noon		21
	20	TAIL O' THE BANK MARATHON	GREENOCK			06
	20	HOME COUNTRIES OR RAF v SCOTLAND SCOTTISH K4 10,000M, 6,000M, 3,000M CHAMPIONSHIPS	STRATHCLYDE PARK, HAMILTON.	9 am		03
	21	CENTRAL SCOTLAND SURF COMP. (Especially for beginners)	MONTROSE BEACH, ANGUS.			39
	21	IRVINE MARATHON	IRVINE, AYRSHIRE.	11.30 am		32

Organisers

02.	SCA/TROSSACHS: A Samuel, Auchengillan, Blanefield, Glasgow.	0360-70473 ot 0360-70763
03.	SCA: S Murphy, 10 Auchendarvie Place, Stevenston, Ayrshire.	0294-63632
06.	RWSABC: Canoe Convener, Clubhouse, Esplanade, Greenock	0475-32766
13.	SELKIRK HS CC: N Richardson, 9 Castle Street, Selkirk	0750-20669
15.	KIRKCALDY CC: M Chisholm, 60 Pettycur Road, Kinghorn	0592-890349
21.	J. Dempsey, F.D.C., Kilns House, Kilns Road, Falkirk	Falkirk 24911
22.	GLASGOW KC: Miss L Mooney, 152 Calder Street, Crosshill, Glasgow.	041-424-3613
25.	STRATHCLYDE UCC: A Manzie, Department of PE, Sports Centre, Cathedral Street, Glasgow.	041-552-4400
27.	SCA: A Morton, 8 Jock's Hill Crescent, Linlithgow	Linlith.2423
28.	STRATHKELVIN KC: D McWhirter, 70 Oak Drive, Lenzie	041-776-3378
29.	R Day, Hawthorn Cottage, 81 Main Street, Ratho	031-333-1429
32.	IRVINE CC: Bruce Beeley, 1 Kyle Road, Irvine	
34.	Jim McPherson, Selkirk High School, Selkirk.	0750-20246
35.	FCAG: Brian Moore, 51 Station Road, Kelty	0383-830371
39.	MONTROSE CC: Paul Jackson, Rossie School, Montrose	0674-82293

CUMBRAE MARATHON - 8th May 1983 What a pity that the Cumbrae Marathon had to be cancelled at short notice by Paisley Kayak Club. Let us hope that they can take up the offer of an alternative date made by the S.C.A.

The RIVER AWE SLALOM run by Forth Canoe Club takes place on 28/29 May and the Organiser is Brian Chapman, 7 Greenbank Grove, Edinburgh. 031-447-2728

The EDINBURGH - GLASGOW MARATHON on the Union Canal and Forth & Clyde Canal also takes place on 28/29th May starting at the Canal Basin, Edinburgh at 10 a.m. The Organiser is J. Dempsey - see No. 21 above.

SURF TRAINING WEEKEND 28-29 May at Sandend, near Cullen. Information from J. Mould. Tel.0343-44867.

SOCIAL, PERSONAL & OTHERWISE

CONGRATULATIONS to Alistair Denny and Catriona Scott who announced their engagement on Catriona's 21st birthday recently. They plan to be married on 13th August in her parents' home town of Inverkip. We wish them both every happiness for their future together.

*** ***** ***** ***** ***

A letter to our Editorial Staff from Hugh Lyons of Cruach Cottage, Benmore dated 13th March 1983...."The Kayak Magazine is ageless. I managed to sell all the canoes I wanted.....Someone picked up the KAYAK - FEBRUARY '82 - last month and approached me for the white water racer I was advertising - and I was able to sell my Espada I had made myself....."

No need for us to say more!

*** ***** ***** ***** ***

Alistair Lyle - ex-Scottish White Water Team of the '70s was recently seen at Aviemore making the most of the early May snow "Bump bashing" in competent style accompanied by two beautiful ski-esses.

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"KAYAK" welcomes contributions from outside sources. Indeed it is dependent on them in order to present as wide as possible a coverage of canoeing in Scotland. Our columns are always open to those who have something to say, whether or not it reflects our own views.

This raises a couple of points. Firstly it is exceedingly frustrating to receive good material at too late a date for its inclusion while the subject is still topical. What is excellent copy for one issue can be pretty old-hat three months later. So, please, all of you who would see their name in print get your articles in by the end of the month previous to publication at the latest. Publication months are August, November, February and May.

Secondly, such material as we carry in names of contributors is printed in good faith whether or not it accords with our personal opinions. We are dependent on the integrity of our correspondents to report as fully and factually as we would ourselves do. It has been disappointing of late to have questioned the content of articles which we have been pleased to reproduce. KAYAK prides itself in providing a record of Scottish canoeing which can be referred to in times to come, and confidently quoted as a reliable source. So our second plea is for accuracy and objectivity. PLEASE KEEP YOUR REPORTS, STORIES AND GOSSIP COMING IN, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

*** ***** ***** ***** ***

A wee story from Scott Ramage..... With all the rain we've been getting, it's as well every cloud has a silver lining. When it's raining, we canoeists at least can think that it's filling up the rivers.

Quite a few groups have taken advantage of the Monsoon Season to attempt some of our smaller rivers.....The Killiecrankie Garry (scene of Bonnie Dundee's victory over the Redcoats) came out the victor in a skirmish with the Scottish Squad.

The Findhorn saw a few swimmers: John Donaldson from West Lothian and Colin McConnachie from Lothian Teachers numbered amongst them. Colin's account goes like this:

"I was only worried about one fall, but I couldn't remember where it was. I capsized in this stopper and was 'sucked' out of my boat. As I swam down I suddenly remembered where the fall I was worried about was.....right in front of me!! David Wilkie couldn't have beaten me to the side....."

I wonder if Colin should be in the S.D.P.? (Swimming and Drowning Parade).

*** ***** ***** ***** ***

While the Football Association is turning down an offer from the television authorities of some £11 million to dominate not only the specialist sports programmes, but also take up a disproportionate amount of prime viewing time, what are we doing to make our various types of competition more interesting for the spectator?

Mass media exposure brings more recruits to our chosen sport and increases public awareness of our activities, bringing a more sympathetic attitude to the problems we meet increasingly in gaining access to the water. It follows that we should be seeking any television coverage we can get, and to do this we have to make canoe competition more exciting for the viewer. Sprint meetings need a reduced time between races. Wild water events give more appeal with mass starts. Slalom, which at present is the most boring event for the non-participant, might benefit by shorter start intervals, or two competitors running at a time on a Grand Prix course with heavy poles forming wider gates in a knock-out competition. Whatever we do, if we can give our formal events more excitement and spectator appeal, we will attract more mass media time. Slicker events mean more TV which leads to sponsorship, which means more money to run slicker events.

_____/_____

Congratulations to Jane Wilson on the results of her efforts as Press Officer in keeping Canoeing features in the sports pages. I notice that we are getting a photo and an interesting article at least once a month in the 'Scotsman' newspaper. Keep up the good work.

_____/_____

Now that Radio Forth have shown their interest in Canoeing by sponsorship of an event, it is time to challenge them to put up a team for a 'Friendly' game of Canoe Polo. At least a joint Radio Forth/Radio Clyde Team can surely be persuaded to indulge in a little aquatic tussle with one of our ladies teams? (PS We need media coverage...)

_____/_____

It gave me several seasons of pleasure, and not a few bruises, to be one of the pioneers of Canoe Polo in Scotland. It gave me a little satisfaction to re-enter competitive paddling a few weeks ago as a pioneer in Scotland's first Dry River Race on the Water of Leith; considerably more to finish the course without a sprained ankle, and down a pint of ale in record time. Imagine my surprise and delight when the results were announced, to note that I came 7th and even beat the unbeatable Para's. However, I did discover that the new 'indestructible' polyethylene kayaks are not quite so indestructible as we thought. Does anyone know how to effect a repair in this material? I would be grateful for any advice, since at present it seems the best course of action is to cut it up into small pieces and present them to the manufacturer for re-cycling.

_____/_____

Congratulations to Jane Wilson and Susan Ward on being selected for the British International Slalom Team. Those of us in the Club who were involved in improving our facility and training area at the Union Canal can at least aspire to bask a little in their reflected glory. Several times over the winter months they could be seen coming down at odd hours to switch on the floodlight, break the ice and get down to a serious training session. No doubt we will be hearing news shortly about the other members of Forth who were also to be seen braving the terrors of the ice in pursuit of the Perfect Run.

The club trip for the month of May took place on Sunday the 15th on the River Tweed. A group of 10 members started from a lay-by above Ashiesteel and paddled down to Fairnilee.

Chris Love, Alan Jenkison, Claire Pattullo, Tina Lynch, Susan Dixon and Grant Wooler were anxious to put their skills to the test on moving water with instruction from the more experienced Kelso Riddell, David Cuthill, Gordon Cuthill and Grant Wilson.

Before the group set off, a moment of distraction caught the Commodore unawares while demonstrating a break in and produced the first capsizes of the day. He fortunately saved face by rolling up again. On to Ashiesteel, and the ferry glide, which looks so easy when the instructors do it but which produced the inevitable spate of capsizes for the newcomers. However, a couple of important lessons were learned by some, i.e. WEAR WOOLLEN CLOTHES FOR KEEPING WARM WHEN WET, and also that being able to roll in the baths does not mean you will be able to roll when it comes to a real situation and cold water.

The water level was fairly high and although all the obstacles were covered, the stretch from Ashiesteel to Fairnilee made for rather uninteresting water to paddle on. At Yair Cauld and Fairnilee the cold ones went straight down to the cars but others hung around to play on the waves watched by the support crew of Dougie Wilson and the Riddell family.

A good trip enjoyed by all despite the weather.

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If you would like to go on a trip like this then you should come to Craiglockhart on a Monday night 6.30 to 8 p.m. and find out what the Club is doing. These trips are often organised at short notice and if you are around and show that you are interested, then you will be invited to go. Numbers are limited because the club has only a limited amount of equipment.

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The month of June has two fun events which are fast becoming traditional for F.C.C. members to attend. Saturday the 4th of June is the Kirkintilloch regatta, and Sunday 12th June is the Rowardennan Fun Regatta on Loch Lomond.

If you would like to take part in either or both of these events then come to Craiglockhart and ask, or else 'phone, Gordon Cuthill for information (447-3954)

Other events to be noted are:

JUNE 26th TAY LEUKAEMIA EVENT
 JUNE 19th F.C.C. Surf Day and Barbecue - 12 mid-day Seacliffe Beach.
 Bring your own food and drink. 'phone Richard Gregory 447-3976

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This issue includes a list of current F.C.C. members. Please check your own name, address and telephone number and inform Gordon Cuthill immediately if it is wrong. If your name does not appear then you are not a member. How about joining?

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All the space in the Jack Cuthill building is now being used and no more keys are being issued for the time being. We have recently made an agreement with Edinburgh University Canoe Club to allow them to use the wooden hut to store canoes. They have access only to the wooden hut and may use the slalom practice gates only if no FCC member wishes to use them. If this arrangement causes any problems please contact Gordon or Kelso immediately.

NOTE FOR SPRINT PADDLERS

Will all sprint paddlers please note that if you wish to enter or participate in Sprint Regattas held at Nottingham, your entries should be put in by a club representative. Please contact Andrew Morton for further information. You may not enter as an individual.

The Club organises a training and coaching session every Monday evening at Craiglockhart Sports Centre from 6.30 to 8pm. This is intended mainly for beginners to learn the basic skills and to sit B.C.U. star tests if they wish, but coaching and examination for other B.C.U. awards can also be arranged.

It is also the main meeting place for club members during the summer months, and this is where you will find out about trips, competitions, gossip, equipment for sale or wanted etc. etc. If you think that the club is not doing much for you then it is your own fault for not being aware of what is going on.

The month of June is a busy one for the club. There will be trips away every weekend so if you want to take part then let us know.

The club is in need of people to assist with transport on club outings etc. If you can help or if you can persuade your parents to help, then please let us know. We can supply a roof rack if you need one. Canoeing is a sport for the whole family to enjoy so why not participate.

Dougie Wilson would like to hear from anyone interested in paddling K1s. The Club has a couple of Espadas at the Canal Hut and if you are interested to try one out please phone Dougie on 4 8101 98.

Sweat shirts and hooded tops with the club logo on are still available from the club secretary. They are light blue with the logo in dark blue and are in medium and large sizes only.

Prices are: Sweat shirts - £6.50
 Hooded tops - 8.00

There are only a few left so BUY NOW to avoid disappointment.

LENDAL



THE WORLD'S LARGEST RANGE OF KAYAK PADDLES



LENDAL is a privately owned company run by canoeists. Both directors have competed in two Olympic Games each and have each held National Sprint and Long Distance Racing titles. Both Marianne and Alistair Wilson have been active canoeists for the past twenty five years and have wide experience of competitive, expedition and sea canoeing. The company aims to produce high quality canoe paddles and equipment and has had several "firsts" in design. We continually seek to improve on our designs and to introduce new ideas on to the market.

From top to bottom:

1. NORDKAPP - Sea Touring Paddle
Multi-laminate wood blade with contoured back and stabilising rib.

2. PACEMASTER - Racing Paddle
Lightweight multi-laminate wood blade, contoured back and stabilising rib.

3. FLAT KIT - General Purpose
Formed around a strong aluminium spine.

4. CURVED KIT - General Purpose
Strong aluminium spine with basic slalom design for maximum efficiency.

5. SLALOM
Suitable for all rough water paddling.

6. SURF SKI - Sprint and Marathon
Developed specifically for Surf Ski enthusiasts. Racing design with contoured back. Blade widths: 17.5 cms.

7. NORDKAPP - Sea Paddle
Available in recommended sea safety colours. Blade width: 17.5 cms.

8-10. POWERMASTER - Racing Blade
Suitable for sprint, marathon and down-river racing. Blade widths: 20.5 cms or 19.5 cms for Ladies/Junior use.

All models available with a choice of fibre-glass, carbon or aircraft alloy shafts.



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