

KAYAK

MAGAZINE



August 1983

A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

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C O N T E N T S

Front Cover: Scottish K4 on its way to a bronze in the 500m at the
Zaandam Regatta
G. Young, A. Morton, A. Batchelor and R. Christie.

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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN KAYAK SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITORS NOT LATER THAN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION i.e. NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY, MAY and AUGUST.

E D I T O R I A L

In three years time, we in Scotland are anticipating hosting another series of Commonwealth canoeing events. No doubt certain preparations are already under way and it would certainly not be premature to be considering other aspects involved.

One group who will be very much in the public eye and subject to the closest scrutiny are the competition officials we provide for the various events. Observation of the current scene suggests we may be somewhat less than adequately equipped in this respect. It is not difficult to bring to mind events in the recent past at which the standard of officiating has left something to be desired. There is plenty of room for improvement.

Should not each Specialist Committee be thinking of forming a group of likely people - judges, timekeepers, umpires, etc. - and getting them together to officiate at club events over the next two years? It is likely that this would be welcomed by some organising clubs and the practical experience should ensure that competent and confident teams of officials are fielded when the time comes.

On a similar theme to the above, it has been noticeable recently that several areas of the sport are lacking any form of charismatic leadership. Some of the Committees and International Teams appear to have no-one with the outstanding energy and enthusiasm necessary to command the respect and fire the enthusiasm of others. Such people are rare, but in order to pull canoeing out of the apparent doldrums of present times, then we must seek out such people.

It is nearly a decade since the rapid rise of the Edinburgh Schools Canoe Association under the leadership of Graham Smith, Scott Balfour and others, who changed the face of slalom and white water canoeing at that time. The first official Scottish Slalom and White Water Racing Teams to compete in full International events, toured Europe 10 years ago this month under the leadership of Andrew Manwell. The organisation of that trip was an excellent precedent for similar expeditions to follow, and there have been other dedicated leaders over the years. Has that standard been maintained after those leaders retired or moved on to other things?

1986 will provide a big organisational challenge to canoeing in Scotland. It will also be an ideal opportunity to gain valuable experience in event organisation of a very high standard. Let us make sure that we use this rare opportunity to the full, to encourage people to take on responsibility and to back them up so that they are not so sickened that they retire immediately after the event, as seems so common these days.

These events must be a success. Be certain that we get as much "success" out of them that we can.

Letter from A.Scott Ramage,
The Scottish Stallion Stable,
Kinleith Industrial Estate,
Currie, Midlothian. July 1983.

Dear Editor,

With regard to your last Editorial and the Commodore's Comment on changing the Slalom set up and Rules, the Commodore says that Slalom is the most boring discipline for the spectator. In the Editorial you say that a 50% cut after the first run would allow more competitors to enter; or time for extra events for T.V. such as G.P. (Grand Prix) or Rapid Racing.

What both of these comments ignore is the Participant. Slalom may be boring to watch; it is, however, vastly the most popular participation canoeing event - in Scotland anyway. People enter it for their enjoyment, not to be actors in a T.V. drama for someone else. If the 50% cut comes in, 50% of these canoeists will get only one individual run in a whole day. The common criticism by racers of slaloms is 'you only get 2 x 3 minutes on the water. Well, then it would be 3 minutes only! Will the S.C.A. give these people a 50% refund?

I agree that "Free" gates would allow freedom of expression and get rid of the Judges headache of wrong presentation.

I feel that two paddlers racing through one set of gates would be great viewing. The clash of paddles, the cracking of glassfibre, the fraying of tempers - great to see - I personally would enjoy it, but would most people? and could they afford the effects on their equipment?

Overall the proposed changes seem to be too much for the camera without taking the participant into account, in my opinion. Also so many changes at once seems to be a bit dangerous instead of putting them in one at a time and letting the sport evolve rather than revolt.

Scott Ramage.

P.S. These comments are not meant as an attack on the Editor, Commodore or S.C.A. but only as, hopefully, constructive criticism. ASR.

Letter from Paul Gardner,
c/o 28 Hamilton Park Avenue,
Glasgow. 26th July 1983.

Dear Editor,

It's time the argument apparently popular in S.C.A. circles, and typified in Kelso Riddell's Commodore's Column in the last "KAYAK" (p.21), was shown as the fallacy it is.

The argument, to summarise, is this: Media exposure is a Good Thing, because it will increase access to water. Therefore we must make canoeing events more exciting for non-canoeing spectators. This will bring T.V. coverage, and therefore sponsorship; the money brought in is used to run better competitions (partly by providing inducements for competitors and helpers to turn up, as proposed in your last Editorial). Better competitions attract more T.V. and Sponsorship, and so on. I can find four faults with this argument:

ONE In general, the pressure to attract "non-expert" spectators will lead to changes against the interest of participants. Kelso's proposals are examples: Massed starts are OK for "fun" races, but unacceptable for important river races (e.g. Tryweryn), which presumably are most likely to attract spectators; - similarly for "dual course" slaloms. Other examples are the I.C.F. proposals outlined in the last Editorial: only one team run, and a 50% cut in second runs, will reduce even further the "competition time" for each slalomist (at present about 10 minutes per weekend).

TWO Lack of manpower at events indicates a lack of support amongst canoeists, and paying people to turn up to judge, organise or compete is an admission of failure. Financial inducements also lead to the dangerous state of semi-professional organisers and competitors, with consequent centralisation and /

and loss of contact with the membership. If organisers can't persuade members to help, then the problem is not a lack of money as your Editorial suggests, but that the basic idea lacks support. New ideas should of course be tried, but if they fail, the fault is in the idea, not the canoeists.

THREE The argument that media coverage increases membership, which increases access, is also rather tenuous. Increased public interest may increase the number of canoeists, but this alone will not improve access one bit. I suggest it would be more effective to put the effort into persuading the hundreds of canoeists who aren't S.C.A. members to join, rather than trying to persuade non-canoeists to canoe, with no guarantee they'll join up. If more Scottish canoeists were S.C.A. members, the S.C.A. would have more authority in access negotiations with statutory bodies and individuals.

FOUR Canoeing on T.V. is boring. As an occasional sprint and marathon competitor, I've long thought that such events must be pretty tedious for non-canoeist spectators. On T.V., even at international level, it's the same. I used to think that slalom could become a T.V. sport, although it couldn't attract many non-canoeists to spectate at the event (a) because of the usually miserable weather and (b) because spectators can only see one small part of the course at a time. Both the above criticisms are even more relevant to river racing. However, after seeing "Paddles Up" (BBC1), I don't think even T.V. can help. T.V. can't convey the speed, the force, or the roar of white water. The only bright spots in the programme were the two "silly gates"; a desperate attempt to interest non-canoeing viewers. And must we have rubber tyres and beach balls in the British Championships to attract T.V.? To quote the commentary during Heat One..."competitors at this level make it all seem easy". Enough said....the fact is that competitive canoeing will never be a popular T.V. sport: we shouldn't waste effort trying.

TO CONCLUDE: bigger, slicker events, T.V. and sponsorship are not going to bring the benefits promised, and they may produce changes against canoeists' interests. Let's put the effort into improvements within the sport. If canoeing grows, good; but if it doesn't, we can still go on enjoying it OUR WAY. Small can be beautiful, and let's not forget it. Paul Gardner.

Letter from: Jane Wilson,

10 Buckstone Loan East,
EDINBURGH, EH10 6UD.

15th August, 1983.

Dear Sir,

As one of the few paddlers to have competed under the proposed new slalom rules I would like to give my impressions of this type of slalom. As regular readers of Canoe Focus, Feedback or Kayak Magazine will know, the I.C.F. put forward proposals for vast changes in the slalom rules. Three test events were run this summer to determine which of the rule changes were viable and British teams were present at them.

A British 'B' Team went to Bourg St. Maurice to compete in the International event as well as the test event. The rules under test at this event were those stated in last Kayak Magazine except that the course was also supposed to be only 600 metres long. The event was a fiasco, not helped by the decision of six countries to boycott the event after practice runs (GB was one, but that's another story).

- 1) Only 50% went through to the second runs. In smaller classes, such as Ladies K1 and C2s, this meant that there was hardly a class left at all after first runs. Also, good paddlers who took things a bit too fine on their first runs were not able to make the small adjustments necessary to bring them a winning run. Would Richard have been World Champion in 1981 if this rule had applied? This rule encourages a 'safe' first run and not the blitz run that wins championships.
- 2) Maximum 25 gate course, 600 metres long, gates 2 metres wide. The French kept the course 800 metres long so the gates were really spread apart, more like Grand-Prix racing than slalom. The wide gates were /

were appalling; it was virtually impossible to get the whole gate in a sensible place with the result that most of the gates were in ridiculous places - half way up the bank, on top of rocks etc. They also tried to force reverses, another ploy that failed abysmally.

- 3) Minimum 6 upstream gates, green gates for even, red for odd. The size of the gates made it very difficult to use any decent eddies. Pole colours did not make any difference.
- 4) One penalty of 20 seconds for a hit or a miss!
A more ludicrous suggestion has not yet been made. How anybody in their right mind can equate a brush of the shoulder against a pole with totally missing a gate eludes me. As it was, the French girl who ended up 2nd, totally missed a gate but beat the next girl who was a fraction slower and touched a gate with the tail of her boat.
- 5) Only one team run. There was no team event.

As you might have gathered, there was obviously a lot wrong with these rules, so further changes were made before Augsburg and Lofer;

- 1) As before
- 2) Max. 25 gates, 600 metres, gates max. width 1.2 metres.
- 3) As before
- 4) Two penalties. 5 secs. for one or both poles touched on a gate
50 secs for gate missed or negotiated wrongly.
- 5) As before.

Augsburg: At least the course was a bit more sensible this time, and in fact it was quite fun. It was shorter in time and easier, and any mistakes didn't matter as much because you could do a gate reverse, sideways or whatever. But is this what we want - an easier type of slalom? Because the course was easier, the top times in all classes were much closer together - less than a second separating the top four men's K1. Again, the 50% rule left very small classes for second runs. Again the course had to be 800 metres long because you can't change either the start or the finish at Augsburg.

Lofer: This time the course was shorter in length and time, only 122 secs for the winning lady. The course was much easier than the real event, and of course not nearly as tiring. It didn't look any more exciting than slalom under the present rules and if anything was more boring because there were no reverse gates and the paddlers still looked relatively fresh at the end.

To summarise then: The rule changes proposed will make slalom easier, quicker and less technically and physically demanding. It will reduce the number of officials required by about 10 at the most; it will do away with problems of presentation, but there will still be the problem of what the judge saw and what actually happened, except that there will be no second run in which to prove that you did it right. With the present standard of judging abroad (particularly France), this could be disastrous. As a paddler who was prepared to look carefully at the new rules, I have come to one decision only.....leave slalom as it is. I know this feeling is shared by British and Foreign paddlers, so let's keep slalom for the paddlers and not for television, until someone can come up with some sensible proposals.

Yours in Slalom,
JANE WILSON.

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What have the slalomists been doing over the Summer? A good question, as I haven't seen very much of them recently. A number of paddlers have been abroad either competing for themselves or for the British Team whilst at home there has been a lot of practice being done on our gates. It's great to see such enthusiasm for slalom amongst the youths and juniors with a lot of promising talent becoming apparent. Young Dave Dixon has been putting us all to shame by the number of times he has been out training and already, after only a few months of paddling, he is in Div 3. Could this be our next superstar? Cynthia Berry also shocked everyone by climbing into a slalom boat and paddling in Fairnilee slalom and was promoted of course.

Tony, Keith and Bluebell had an 'exciting' time both on and off the water when they went to watch the Worlds at Merano, but rumours of cars and bodies being written off weren't quite as bad as that.

Susan Ward and I competed in three competitions for the G.B. Team this summer at Bourg St. Maurice (France), Augsburg (W.Germany) and Lofer (Austria) with varying success (see results below). At Augsburg and Lofer the British Team took most of the top medals except in the Men's K1 class where there was no-one inspiring in the absence of Tricky Dicky. Even the German newspapers admitted that 'Gross Britannien Dominieren ab Augsburg' and carried pictures of Liz as well as a good write-up on our team.

Now that the Scottish Champs are nearly on us again there appears to be some frantic activity going on in various places. Residents in the vicinity of the Waters of Leith have been complaining about tidal waves caused by fast moving canoes; and in a basement workshop, all-kevlar boats are carefully being built. Can this be Scott's attempt at beating the girls at Grandtully? Well, we'll see, Scott, and its drinks on you if we beat you! There are also rumours of Kenny Fraser making yet another comeback in slalom - can this be true?

Talking of the Scottish Champs, I hope we are going to see a good turnout by Forth members, because this year there really will be something for everyone, even the most novice. Neil Baxter is running the event on 17/18th September, and anything run by Neil is bound to be mad. As well as the Championship and Open events, there is going to be a 'Fun Run' of about 2 miles and a Bar-B-Q on Saturday and on Sunday there is going to be Novice slalom coaching, fun games on the water, a Grand Prix and a Hot Dog event. On top of this, the B.B.C. are showing interest in televising it so we are hoping that big stars like Richard Fox and Liz Sharman will be coming along. So make the 17/18th September a real fun weekend and come to Grandtully. Whether you're watching or paddling, this is going to be THE weekend of the year!

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS:

Swiss Champs, Berne (Tony Leaver, Keith Brown, 'Bluebell' Munro)

C1 2nd Bluebell

K1M 4th Tony K1M Team: 1st Tony, Keith and an Aussie.

5th Keith

Bourg St. Maurice (Susan Ward, Jane Wilson)

K1L 7th Jane

8th Susan

Augsburg (Susan, Jane)

K1L 3rd Jane

Lofer (Susan, Jane)

K1L 7th Susan

Test Event 6th Jane.

Results that weren't worth mentioning, aren't!

Apologies to the West Lothian crowd and others who also paddled abroad, I don't have any results for them.

P.S. Hope you all watched Tony making a fool of himself on 'Paddles Up'!

At a recent Marathon event down the Tay, competitors were instructed to portage Stanley Weir because of its supposed danger. After the race, David Wolfe and I inspected the Weir as we are both involved in the organisation of the Tay Marathon and are members of the W.W. Committee. As the river was very low (July 1983) it was a good opportunity for a closer inspection. We paddled down chute 2 (see diagram) and paddled across the bottom of the weir before climbing on to the weir and inspecting it closer.

Our conclusions are as follows:

Chute 1 is very dangerous

Chute 2 is safe

Chute 3 is dangerous

Chute 4 should be treated with caution.

Chutes 1, 3 and 4 are all new chutes which were breached by explosives in the seventies.

Chute 2 is the original chute built in to the weir and can be recognised by the vertical sheet piling down the edges.

Chute 1 This chute is at the extreme left of the weir and is virtually dry at low water. It is a tangled mass of concrete, spikes and wire mesh gabions and would be very dangerous to paddle over even at winter levels. It is used by paddlers in White Water races as it is the shortest way over the weir, but whether organisers will permit its use in the future is very much in doubt. The W.W. Committee intends to consider the use of chute 1 at its next meeting.

Chute 2. There are no obstructions on this shoot and it appears to be as safe as ever. It consists of a smooth slope terminating in a deep pool and there is no damage caused by floods or the destruction of other parts of the weir.

Chute 3 Paddlers are not advised to paddle down this chute, particularly in Slalom boats. It is difficult to determine the underwater topography and it is likely there are spikes and broken concrete quite close to the surface.

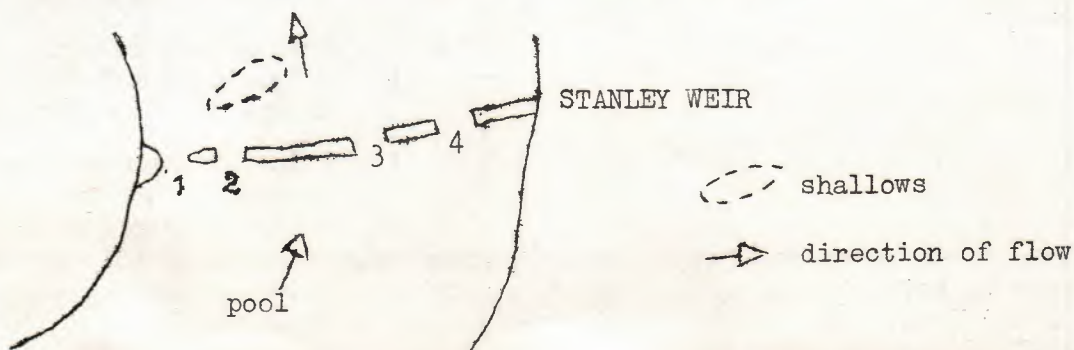
Chute 4. This chute may be safe to paddle straight down as there appears to be plenty of water even at low levels. However the comments made in 3 above also apply.

General comments

"Playing about" below the weir, particularly in Slalom boats, is not recommended.

The nature of the weir can change, particularly after winter floods. For example a tree lodged in chute 2 for a time after one spate. As with any obstruction on a river, it is advisable to inspect before shooting.

Chute 2 will be used for the Tay Marathon as usual.



The team consisting of Kenny Fraser, John Anderson, Tom McLean, Stuart McCartney and myself as team manager travelled out to Spain in cars and met up with Kenny Bain. We were joined a few days later by Ian Bownes, Mark Stoddart and Euan Phimister.

Our first competition was at Seo d' Urgell, very close to Andorra in the Pyrenees. The individual course was on the river Valira which, although many of the team had paddled before, had been considerably changed by floods last year. The course was very rocky and practice was hard on the boats consequently we were frequently using our glassfibre materials. Ideally a practice-boat was required for each person but space limitations on the cars had only allowed us to bring one boat each.

The day before the competition the Swiss Junior team and Senior B team arrived. The juniors were very strong and took the first ten places in their class but in the Senior event, Kenny Fraser took a good second place and John Anderson third. The Swiss left directly after the individual event and this left us to take 1st and 3rd place in the team event. Our B team had a capsized and finished well down.

After the competitions at Seo we moved the short distance across the mountains to our next event at Sort, an International class Wild Water Race. The course on the river Noguera Pallanesa is excellent, having a large volume of water, near continuous rapids for most of the course and few rocks to dodge. Several days were spent in hard training, learning the routes and becoming familiar with the water.

In addition to the Swiss team, the top Belgian team was in attendance including many times World Champion Jean-Pierre Burny. Not surprisingly Burny won in the K1 class, 30 seconds up on the next man. Kenny Fraser took 8th place and John Anderson 11th; Kenny Bain holed his boat and had a poor result. Again the Swiss dominated in the Junior event. In the Team event the Swiss had a surprise victory over the Belgians, our A Team taking 4th place.

Unfortunately the Spanish organisation was poor, in particular at Sort where the timing was extremely haphazard but always in the favour of the Spanish competitors. A written protest was required to correct matters, but the whole affair left a certain amount of bad feeling. Despite this aspect the tour was well enjoyed and all paddlers improved their rough water technique and gained good experience.

SUMMARY OF RESULTSSEO d' URGELLSENIOR MEN'S K1

1. D. Rhein	Switzerland	14.01
2. K. Fraser	Scotland	14.14
3. J. Anderson	"	14.16
7. K. Bain	"	15.07
8. J. Bownes	"	15.08
10. M. Stoddart	"	15.46
13. T. McLean	"	15.52
14. E. Phimister	"	16.02

JUNIOR MEN'S K1

1. B. Wafler	Switzerland	14.16
2. S. Greier	"	14.33
3. R. Guillerat	"	14.42
11. S. McCartney	Scotland	15.52

TEAM EVENT

1. Fraser/Bain/Anderson	Scotland A	24.37
2. Santacruz/Gonzalez/Herran	Santiagotarrak	25.40
3. McLean/Phimister/Wolfe	Scotland C	26.59

SORTSENIOR MEN'S K1

1. J.P. Burny	Belgium	21.14
2. J. Ceulemans	"	21.41
3. D. Rhein	Switzerland	21.49
8. K. Fraser	Scotland	22.32
11. J. Anderson	"	22.56
18. J. Bownes	"	23.38
22. T. McLean	"	24.39
28. K. Bain	"	25.37

JUNIOR MEN'S K1

1. R. Guillerat	Switzerland	21.49
2. B. Wafler	"	21.56
18. S. McCartney	Scotland	24.23

TEAMS

1. Rhein/Guillerat/Wafler	Switz	22.03
2. Burny/Ceulemans/Verniers	Belgium	22.18
3. Pfund/Gutknecht/Greier	Switz	22.42
4. Fraser/Anderson/Bain	Scot A	22.57

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION WHITE WATER RANKING LIST 1982-1983

The W.W. Ranking list for Scotland for 1982/3 season is available. Extracts are given below. A number of paddlers have already obtained copies and those wishing a copy of the full list should write to A. Morton with a Stamped Addressed Envelope. Andy's address is: 8 Jock's Hill Crescent, Linlithgow.

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>DEE</u>	<u>TH1</u>	<u>TH2</u>	<u>CLY</u>	<u>MAC</u>	<u>TTH</u>	<u>GR</u>	<u>AWE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1.	K.Fraser	Rox	100			100	100				100
2.	A.Denny	Rox		98.7	98.5	96.5		100		100	99.58
3.	K.Bain	Str		100			90.3		100	95.1	98.38
4.	A.Meikle	Str	95.3	99.4	100	94.6					98.25
5.	T.McLean	Ind	89.4	95.9	93.8	89.2	86.1		99.2	94.5	96.54
6.	A.Morton	For			98.0						96.03
7.	K.Bryce	Str	92.2	98.4		88.2		93.2			94.60
8.	P.Golding	RAF		94.9					95.8		94.36
9.	G.Forster	RAF		96.34							94.34
10.	S.McCartney	Pai	85.7		93.2	86.2	82.6		98.1	90.4	93.89
11.	J.Knox	Rox		99.6		92.6	89.1				93.77
12.	E.Phimister	Abr	81.6		92.6				96.8	90.3	93.26
13.	L.Kirkpatrick	CD		82.9	88.6	90.0	85.8		95.2	93.3	92.83
14.	W.R.Kersel	Mon		93.5							91.53
15.	A.Davey	RAF		93.4							91.39
16.	I.Bownes	RWS			92.4	92.2	89.6				91.38
17.	M.Stoddart	Abr	89.5							95.9	91.26
18.	A.Murray	RWS		93.0							90.97
19.	J.Costello	GKC	83.8		87.4			89.3	96.1		90.93
20.	J.Ringwood	Str	84.7	89.2	89.4		82.3		93.6		90.70
21.	K.McNair	Str		92.3							90.26
22.	R.McKinnon	Str	85.2	92.8	91.8						89.94
23.	D.Wolfe	For			90.5	87.2		91.2			89.64
24.	A.Morrison	Str				86.5		93.0			89.75
25.	A.Macintosh	GKC				86.5		91.1		88.5	88.72
26.	J.Hall	Rox		86.9	86.4	83.9		87.8	91.0		88.57
27.	S.Robertson	Edi								90.5	88.53
28.	G.Robbie	Sti	90.4			88.3					88.37
29.	A.Watt	GUC		92.4		86.0					88.19
30.	I.Linn	Ind	90.7			87.5					88.12
46.	G.Logie	For							84.9		82.93
47.	C.Berry	For			81.0	74.9		85.3		82.2	82.84

NOTES

a. The formula used to calculate percentages was as follows:

$$P = 100 - \left(\frac{T-W}{W} \times 100 \right)$$

Where P = Percentage

W = Winner's time (seconds)

T = Competitor's time (seconds)

b. The system is based on the M.S. system as described in the W.W. Year Book. The best three results of the season are averaged.

c. There are still some anomalies with the results. Compare the Scottish Championship results with the above.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. K. Fraser | 2. A. Denny | 3. A. Morton | 4. K. Bain |
| 5. J. Knox | 6. I. Bownes | 7. A. Meikle | 8. T. McLean |
| 9. M. Stoddart | 10. E. Phimister | 11. K. Bryce | 12. S. McCartney |

These 12 placings are probably a truer picture of standard than the ranking list. I am working on a complex system which I hope will give a far more accurate picture. Basically it will involve a calculation of a notional or "ghost" winner on whose time everyone else's will be based. This will definitely need the assistance of a computer!

A. Morton.

RADIO FORTH TWEED MARATHON

SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 1983

The race will be run over the same course as in previous years and will be a ranking event for the SCA Marathon Club Trophy and SCA Singles LD Trophy. This is also the event chosen to be the Scottish K2 Championships.

DIV I & II
& K2 course
16 miles

Walkerburn (A72 Peebles to Galashiels road) to Gattonside (suspension bridge at Melrose).
Be at Walkerburn at 11.30 a.m. for 1200 hrs (prompt) mass start.

DIV III, IV,
LADIES Divs. 1 & 2
8 miles

Fairnilee to Gattonside (B7060).
Be at Fairnilee at 12 noon for a 12.30 start.

RADIO FORTH TROPHY

This new RADIO FORTH CANOE MARATHON TROPHY will be awarded to the fastest Junior (under 18) team of 3 paddling GP cr slalom boats. The race will be from Fairnilee to Gattonside (Melrose) and we hope for a large entry from school and youth organisations both novices and those more experienced. Special prizes with a Radio Forth flavour have been generously donated. Start time: 12 noon.

SAFETY

The event will be run to current SCA LD racing rules. You will be required to wear a crash hat and you MUST wear a buoyancy aid. Boats will be checked for safety, end loops and buoyancy. Any considered unsatisfactory will not be allowed to start.

RACE NUMBERS

The bib race numbers must be worn throughout the race to avoid confusion with other canoeists on the river at the same time. It is also another safety precaution as numbers are checked at various points on the course.

FEES

Senior and Senior Touring/Slalom ... £1.50
Junior ... 1.00
Radio Forth Team Trophy..... 1.50 per team

ENTRIES

These will be taken at the start up to 30 minutes before the "off" or by sending a note of your name, division, type of boat plus the entry fee to the organiser. All classes of canoe may be entered. Three entries constitute a class.

ALL CANOEISTS COMPETE AT THEIR OWN RISK. FORTH CANOE CLUB DO NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE SUFFERED BY A COMPETITOR.

ENTRIES AND ENQUIRIES TO:

George Logie
26, The square
Kirkliston
West Lothian.

Telephone: 031-333-3086.



SOME EARLY PUBLICITY QUOTED THE DATE OF THE RADIO FORTH TWEED MARATHON AS 18th SEPTEMBER. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CORRECT DATE IS SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER.

It's a pity the Edinburgh to Glasgow Marathon doesn't attract more paddlers. The Twelve starters this year were an improvement but still gave little encouragement for Hugh McGinley's efforts. Obviously a two day slog through pea soup isn't everyone's cup of tea (if you'll excuse the mixed metaphors), but it must be very satisfying to those who do complete the course. First to do so this year (in a new record time) was Ken Bryce (SUCC), who survived not only the usual urban canal hazards, but also being the target of some local sniper. He has the pellet to prove it! Second was David Andrew (Kirkcaldy) and third Angus Morrison (GUCC).

In contrast, the Lubnaig Marathon (5th June), as befitted its status as this year's K1 championship event, saw a much more satisfactory turn-out (29) with practically all divisions fully subscribed. In view of this, it was somewhat disappointing to discover that divisional wins on this occasion do not count towards promotion. It is felt that this is something worth debating for the future. The various races that developed within this event proved interesting with the leading group of Montgomery (Irvine), Morton (Forth) Fraser (Roxburgh) and Young (Trossachs) gradually diminishing to finish in that order at varying intervals. Alison Edwards (Kirkcaldy) was first lady home and Grant Wilson (Forth) first junior.

The Loch Lomond event (11th June) produced an exciting finish with Gilbert Speirs (Trossachs) just outsprinting Andy Morton to the line with Kenny Bryce third. The race appeared to pose navigation problems for many, and at one stage there were canoes on so many diverging courses that one wondered how many races were going on. In view of the disappointing turn-out Drew Manzie intends to run next year's event at Rowardennan on the day of the Regatta there, in the hope of attracting more support.

Run over a new course this year (Kenmore - Grandtully, 26th June) the Tay (Leukaemia) Marathon proved popular with those who took part. With over a hundred sponsored paddlers on the water, the river was somewhat congested in places. Andy Morton's familiarity with this stretch saw him home comfortably ahead of Roddie Christie (Irvine). Andy Watt (GUCC) celebrated his brand new medical degree by doing a victory roll under the finishing line - which took his K2 partner Angus Morrison by surprise.

Having agreed to a change of date to accommodate the Tay Race, it was good to see Irvine C.C. rewarded with such a good entry at Loch Ken on 17th July. On a beautiful day, the race almost became incidental to all the other aquatic pursuits indulged in by the paddlers. Neil Davidson and Gary Young blethered their way round the course ahead of the field for Neil to win the burn for the line.

Also enjoying a good turn-out was Kirkcaldy's Marathon run over the previous Leukaemia course on the Tay (24th July). There was a class formed in each Division (including men's doubles for the first time this season.) Going through Stanley it looked as though Rod Christie was heading for his revenge over Andy Morton, but Hell Hole and Thistlebrig took their toll and it was Andy who came in with a good lead at North Inch from Rod and Steve Murphy (Irvine). Gill Robbie paddled impressively to be first by a good way over the short course.

Robert Montgomery (Irvine) had a busy and rewarding few days in early June when he won two Scottish Championship Gold Medals in the space of four days. Following his successful tactical battle with Andy Morton in the K1 Marathon Championships at Loch Lubnaig, Robert had an equally closely contested struggle before winning the 10,000 metres title on Linlithgow Loch. Here his opposition came from Gilbert Speirs (Trossachs) who literally paddled himself sick trying to stay with Robert to the line. Alison Edwards (Kirkcaldy) and Grant Wilson (Forth) also collected two titles at these events in Ladies and Junior Men classes where the fields were, unfortunately, less competitive.

The /

The O'Brien brothers, Paul and Chris, took the awards in Youth's C and B K1 at Linlithgow, maintaining Kirkcaldy's supremacy at this level.

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

How good it is to report some encouraging signs on the Marathon front. Entries generally are showing an improvement and at the time of writing there are at least six people looking for K1's. If any of you know of any such craft for sale, please contact Dougie Wilson who will be glad to put you in touch with prospective buyers. Tel: 4:8101:98.

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

..Who effectively wrote-off two racing K1's within minutes of each other at Grandtully and have literally found themselves in the same boat ever since?

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

No connection with the previous question, but have you heard the definition of 'cockpit thrombosis'? It's a clot between the foot-rest and the seat-back.

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

On their debut as a racing K2 crew at Loch Ken, Brian Chapman and Neil Baxter (whom God preserve) found time to stop for a chat with the water skiers, go in for a swim and round the wrong (further away) island - AND STILL come in over an hour behind the last K1 !!!

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

Talking about having two boats repaired, an S.C.A. official suggested they could be taken to "you know - what's his name - Laughing Horse"! I wonder who he meant?

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

Neil Davidson (Kirkcaldy) is in for a busy week-end when he paddles for the British Team in K1, K2 and K4 over various distances in Poland this month. Neil is obviously highly regarded in Youth Sprint circles to be selected for such a demanding programme.

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

Our congratulations also to Alistair Chisholm for his rapid rise through the Marathon rankings this season. Now in Division 2, Alistair is one of the Kirkcaldy youngsters with such a distinctive paddling action.

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

Gilbert Speirs, formerly of Irvine Canoe Club, was selected to paddle for Britain in Senior K2 in the World Cup Marathon at Copenhagen this summer. He and his partner came 12th overall. Congratulations Gibby.

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

Anyone interested in paddling on the rougher sections of the Tay, prior to the Marathon, should contact Andrew Morton (Tel.Linlithgow 2423). The plan is to meet at Kenmore around noon on SUNDAY 28th AUGUST.

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

It is most reprehensible that recipients of perpetual awards don't make the effort to have them returned to be presented to the next winner. Almost as bad is to return a trophy without having had your name inscribed. What does the next holder do? Pay for yours and his name to be added? Leave a gap? Have his put on with yours missing? There isn't a satisfactory solution other than for you to find the necessary couple of quid sometime during the year you are in possession to have the job done.

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

Andrew Manwell's Triathlons are certainly generating an interest in canoe racing and might well provide a spin-off benefit to the sport.

I first heard of this unique event some three years ago when it was first proposed. I was at a sea canoeing conference at Ardentenny and gave little time to the pure racing side of our sport. However, to paddle round the Isle of Wight in one day, at semi-racing speeds in a sea kayak appealed to me. This year the date was fixed for mid-July and my entry was submitted in good time. I received in reply a load of useful information, including tourist brochures. (We combined it with a family holiday in the South).

The rules stipulate the use of a "sea kayak" of recognised design (Nordkapp, Baidarka etc.) but do not exclude specials if they are sea boats and not modified K1s. One of the stated aims is to encourage thought on design of fast passage making canoes. Competitors are expected to be of a certain minimum experience.

Sensibly, in addition to the main object (of rounding the island) there are two other course options; a thirty mile Solent course and a shorter eighteen mile course also restricted to the Solent. Juniors (under eighteen) are confined to a choice of the two Solent courses whereas Seniors opt for any distance. The choice is left to the individual when on the water. If he decides that the full 55 miles is a bit much he can indicate his intentions of completing the shorter course at the first checkpoint on Yarmouth Pier. As this area has some rather dangerous tidal stretches, a maximum of force 4 wind strength was set for attempting the circumnavigation. Tidal conditions in the Solent are famous and to take full advantage a starting time of between 06.00 and 06.30 was proposed.

We arrived during one of the hottest spells and with the forecast over the race weekend set at maximum temperatures. It soon became evident that heat would be the main problem and not wind. Advice was given on the effects of heat exhaustion and dehydration at an excellent briefing the previous evening. I took plenty of liquid, but during the race it soon became clear that the secret weapon, as no doubt all experienced long distance racers know, was a bottle with a tube tucked up the front of the vest. This allowed continuous replenishment of liquid without breaking the paddling rhythm.

The morning was foggy and we were advised to stay close in and not cut across the bays. News was received that there was no swell at The Needles, in fact it remained flat calm most of the way round.

Some forty paddlers set out at various times, each with his own thoughts on how best his pace would fit in with the tidal flow. I hung back and eventually entered the water just after 6.30 shadowing last year's event winner John Freeman, from Tewksbury. The tide had been ebbing for two hours so we would get a two knot advantage down to the Needles. By covering the fifteen odd miles in under two hours our speed over the ground was about $7\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h. - not bad for a sea kayak!

We rounded the Needles at 8.30 and passed about half the paddlers who set out before us. The rest were in sight and it seemed just a matter of time till we overhauled them.

While the race was being won or lost in the first two hours, our speed in the calm conditions was taking the supporting groups by surprise. The leading boats did not see a rescue craft after the Needles and the shore groups arrived at checkpoints after the boats had passed through. This illustrates the difficulty of accounting for every competitor in an event of such an exposed nature.

The long stretch from the Needles to St.Catherine's Point was virtually out of sight of land because of the mist, and seemed endless. Mental endurance started to flag and the sheer magnitude of the paddle started to sink in. Maintaining rhythm to the finish was difficult and I found myself fighting the dreaded "numb-bum" syndrome. Of course the incentive to finish such an event is just that....the finish....and it is surprising how the spirits lift when rounding Old Castle Point back to the start/finish line.

Everyone /

Everyone was surprised by the times in these conditions. The previous best time for an island circumnavigation was 9 hours 50 minutes. This was bettered by the first ten finishers. My time of 8 hours 42 minutes falls into insignificanceten minutes behind Martin Wilford in second place, and half an hour behind the first placed John Freeman.

All competitors completing the course received a certificate and an engraved glass and there were prizes for the first three places. The winner was also presented with a handsome cup. Presentations were made by Sir John Nicholson, Governor of the Isle of Wight and Honorary President of the Cowes Kayak Club.

If this account encourages anyone else North of the Border to "have a go" next year, be assured you will receive a superb welcome and find that the island makes an excellent holiday base.

J.C.

A.S. R A M A G E

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COMING EVENTS FOR NEXT 3 MONTHSSEPTEMBEROrganiser

3- 4	INTERNATIONAL TAY MARATHON, LOCH TAY - PERTH	11 a.m.	27
3- 4	NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND OPEN SURF COMPETITION, SANDEND, ABERDEENSHIRE		17
10-11	AUCHENRIOCH REGATTA, DUMFRIES-SHIRE		43
10-11	GRANDTULLY 2, 3, J. GRANDTULLY, PERTHSHIRE.		08
15-16	INTER-SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIPS, GRANDTULLY, PERTHSHIRE.		
17-18	SCOTTISH SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS, GRANDTULLY, PERTHSHIRE.		10
17th	W.W. SELECTION EVENT FOR FOSTERS INTERNATIONAL, THISTLEBRIG - PADDLERS TO REPORT 9.30 am for 10am start.		07
17	SCOTLAND v COMBINED SERVICES, GRANDTULLY, PERTHSHIRE. a.m.		
24	SCOTTISH K1, K2, K4 1000m Champs; K4 500m Champs, SENIOR AND JUNIOR MEN AND LADIES; K4 DISTANCE EVENTS STRATHCLYDE PARK, HAMILTON.		03
24-25	COMRIE 4, N, J. COMRIE, PERTHSHIRE.		04
25	RADIO FORTH TWEED MARATHON, WALKERBURN-FAIRNILEE-GATTONSIDE see page 11 for details		24

OCTOBER

1- 2	RIVER AWE SLALOM 2, 3, J.		18
9	LEVEN L.D. DUCK BAY, LOCH LOMOND		28
15-16	ROYAL DEESIDE 3, 4, J. RIVER DEE, ABERDEENSHIRE.		16
22-23	SCOTTISH SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS. SANDEND		14
23	CLYDE L.D.		25
29-30	SEATON PARK, N, J. OPEN NOVICE		23
29-30	COACHING CONFERENCE. BLAIRVADACH		48

NOVEMBER

6	ROYAL DEE WHITE WATER RACE B, C, OPEN. RIVER DEE, ABERDEEN- SHIRE		16
20	THISTLEBRIG 1 WW RACE C, OPEN. STANLEY - THISTLEBRIG.		18

OrganisersTel.No.

03	SCA: S.Murphy, 10 Auchendarvie Place, Stevenston, Ayrshire.	0294-63632
04	GUCC: Competition Secretary, Stevenson Building, 77, Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow.	
07	FCC: D. Wolfe, 4 West Clifton Cottages, East Calder	031-333-3836
08	DWWC: Pauline Hamley, 'Streonshalh', Kinloch, Meigle, Perthshire.	Meigle 415
10	FCC: Neil Baxter, 45 Oxfangs Avenue, Edinburgh	031-441-4283
14	SCA: John Mould, 12 Milnefield Avenue, Elgin	0343-44687
16	AUCC: Competition Secretary, Butchart Recreation Centre, University Road, Aberdeen	0224-40241
17	SCA: Brian Mackie, 5 Kellards Avenue, Inverurie	0467-20961 (cancellation No.)
18	Central Region CC: Ian Macadie, 52 The Bryony, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire.	Alloa 215853
23	AKC: Ken Baillie, 62 Rowan Drive, Westhills, Skene	0224-741401
24	FCC: George Logie, 26 The Square, Kirkliston	031-333-3086
25	Strath CC: A Manzie, Dept. of PE, Sports Centre, Cathedral Street, Glasgow.	041-552-4400
27	SCA: A Morton, 8 Jock's Hill Crescent, Linlithgow	Linl.2423
28	StrathK KC: D McWhirter, 70 Oak Drive, Lenzie	041-776-3378
43	Elwyn Rees, Glenloch School House, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire	055667-246
48	Archie Crawford, 12 Stephen Place, Lochgelly, Fife.	0592-781001

The first two weeks of the school holidays saw a group from the Lothian Teachers Canoe Association, plus assorted "others" fleeing from memories of the classroom in the general direction of Germany and Austria in search of big water. Non-stop driving, apart from punctures and trailer trouble, took us to the Olympic Slalom course at Augsburg to meet up with the rest of the team who had travelled out by car. An inspection of the site in the dark pronounced it as a "piece of duff" or "not as hard as Grandtully" and a few beers and chips rounded off the night, leaving some of us feeling 'awfy confident'! This confidence unfortunately vanished in the sober, cool early morning light. However, the true Scots character came to the fore and eventually most people were managing the course "nae bother at a' " even if they were mostly swimming rather than paddling!

After the long drive into Austria, enlivened by an impromptu party in the transit, we camped at Lofer amongst idyllic surroundings and ran the slalom course on the River Saalach; this was technical but not really hard. However a large amount of time was expended looking for Arthur who reportedly had been last seen chasing one of our boats into the Loferer Schlucht gorge (Grade 15, entry marked by a memorial to a drowned canoeist!) The long, hot, sweaty hike through the undergrowth was about grade 16 and of course you know who was back at the van when we crawled back, having done a quick exit stage left just before the afore-mentioned gorge but just around the corner out of sight.

Lienz was the next stop, camping in a lakeside meadow at the foot of an 'Alp'. The Moll, Gail (32 kms) and Isel were all chalked up without any mishaps apart from Tom trying to obtain a Guinness book of records mention for the longest high brace in the big weir on the Isel. Mark did try to 'nudge' him out as he walloped into the slot but didn't quite succeed and eventually Tom and his brand new boat parted company. The three roller-coaster weirs in the centre of Lienz will long stay in my memory.

Eventually when all the 'easy stuff' was becoming too boring and the fragrant alpine camp-site had a fine covering of resin dust, we decided to conquer the Inn and moved camp to a site on the hard shoulder of the autobahn. The Imster Schlucht gorge was a bit alarming at first being vaguely reminiscent of Corryvreckan. Various rafting parties were observed attempting it but I must admit I would rather take my chances in a Scott Ramage special than an elongated inner tube.

The Inn was well up on its normal level; 300 on the bridge gauges with 280 being considered high, and this was perhaps what caught a few of the party out the next day on the Tosens to Prutz stretch where a few people had bad swims along the bottom of the river as well as on the surface.

Some of the "A team" tackled the R.Sanna while others climbed an 'Alp' and very narrowly escaped being fried by a large nasty lightning bolt during a storm.

On returning to Augsburg we were dismayed (relieved?) to find the water turned off in preparation for a slalom. However, the afternoon saw the zoom-flume in action with its usual crowd of Kamikaze swimmers and Evel Kneivels in bats, complete with motorbike helmets and armour.

Several members of the group are returning next year with parties from Lothian Schools and this memorable trip should prove to have been a very useful reconnaissance.

The Team:- Dave Fox, Donald McBride, Arthur Moan, Colin MacConnachie, Tom Sannaghan, Elspeth Good, Judy Downe, Mark Linton, Mike Miller, Graham McGhee, Ian Marshall, Dave Simpson, George Elliot, Sue, Carly Reid and Vic Browne (hon.member).

The boats: Mostly by that man Ramage.

The insurance:- B.C.U. (Get your claims in now before they go bust after receiving ours.

The Guide book:- Tony Ford's Bavarian White Water - fact or fiction?

The food:- Meat Balls by Asda.

Congratulations to Alistair and Catriona who became Mr. and Mrs. Denny on Saturday 13th August. We wish them good luck and much happiness for the future.

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

We learn, with pleasure, that Gill Robbie and Les Berrow plan to marry in October and our best wishes go to them also.

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

It is good to see the "FORTH Kindergarten" progressing in fine style; the wee Ramages, Riddells, Mortons, Balfours and a Logie, are growing like mushrooms. Keep up the good work you Mums and Dads - we'll have a specially good club in, what, 15 years time?

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

We have just heard that Kathy McLeod (now Kathy Taylor), has given birth to a little girl, Kirsty, (8lbs 6ozs) on Saturday 13th August. Well done Kathy. It's difficult to imagine you a Mum.

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

To those who remember the Canadian Brian Titus who was a F.C.C. member at one time, his wife Colina has given birth to a little girl Joanna at 2.30 a.m. on Tuesday 19th August. A sister for Andrew now 19 months.

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

We have just had this message handed in by Jane Wilson who has had - along with Cynthia Berry - a most startling experience. Here is what she says:

"Whilst paddling on the canal just past the viaduct last week, Cynthia and I had an interesting experience - we were shot at! A fisherman had taken exception to us paddling K2 past him and as we returned he picked up his air pistol and fired a shot just behind our backs. Needless to say, if we had taken that moment to decide to stop paddling, one of us could have been hit and severely injured - an air pistol from that distance (10 feet) can be lethal. We decided to stop and challenge him, but what can you do?
According to the police who were later contacted, the next time this happens, keep paddling to the nearest 'phone box, call the police and stay in the vicinity in order to identify the culprit. The man in this instance was mid-30s, medium height, skinny, fair-haired and had a scar on his face. (Sounds great, doesn't he?)"

Are any of our readers members of the R.N.L.I.?
If you own a canoe or kayak and paddle on the sea ought you not to join now? After all, if you get in difficulties you will expect rescue. The R.N.L.I. depends entirely on voluntary contributions and you can become a Shoreline member for £5 per annum. (a very reasonable life insurance)
I have paid my membership, will you do the same? or continue to demand something for nothing as seems to be the norm these days?

Andrew Morton

The Address is: The Royal National Life-Boat
Institution, 45 Queen Street, Edinburgh 2.

The party which assembled at John Young's house to embark on Forth C.C.s West Coast Tour was anything but bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. Most of us had been at our beloved "Commodore" party the previous night and as a result felt decidedly fragile when the time came to pack bodies, equipment and provisions into two cars and a trailer for the run up to Glenfinnan. For the record, D.C.'s Sunshine Band consisted of David Cuthill, Gordon Anderson, Louise Henderson, The Young's (John, Jock, Tina and Catriona) and yours truly, Grant Wilson. The kayaks used included wood/G.R.P. "John Young Specials", Klepper T 9's and a beautiful old lath and canvas folding double - a Hart which belongs to Joanna Aldridge a former touring companion of Jack and Betty Cuthill.

Glenfinnan reached on the Sunday evening, it was decided to get on the water right away and get a few miles down Loch Shiel for our first camp. At the chosen spot, we got the traditional Highland "100,000 Welcomes" - from 100,000 midges! We were seldom without them for the rest of the trip.

Next morning we found the wind had freshened to such an extent that it was decided not to venture out so we sat around annoying each other on land instead of at sea. Next day, however, brought an improvement. No wind and a cool day for paddling "plenty of miles" as G.A. would say. We paddled the length of Loch Shiel to Acharacle where no one needed rocked to sleep that night. Suitably refreshed, the party was ready to face the open sea early next morning. But first there was the River Shiel which is like a Roald Dahl story in having a surprise ending. A seemingly placid little stretch of water, it tumbles into Loch Moidart via a fall of some 10 to 15 feet in about the same distance. Not wishing to risk lath, canvas or my neck, I opted for a laborious portage and was much impressed by the others who shot the rapids. Lunch was taken at Castle Tioram, one of the most beautiful spots on the West Coast. Then a paddle to the sea round Eilean Shona with the Scur of Eigg framed in the mouth of the North Channelan unforgettable view.

Our campsite that night at Smearisary was ideal with a panorama from Ardnamurchan to the Cuillins, with Muck, Eigg and the mountains of Rhum set in the sparkling waters between. As well as the view, this site had everything; level grass, sandy bays and plenty clear running water. Although remote, it was within paddling distance of the inn at Glenuig and it was perhaps this and the very hot weather which made us linger here for the next two days.

However, it was supposed to be a tour, so move on we did - North across the mouth of Loch Ailort and Loch nan Uamh and a landing at Arisaig. After buying provisions (you don't call it "food" when you're on an expedition). we paddled on by Back of Keppoch and Traigh's white beaches to Morar where we spent two days before learning we were not allowed to camp there. Here we said farewell to John and Catriona who had been under the weather due to the heat (and her Dad's cooking, it was said); however reinforcements arrived in the shape of Gordon Cuthill whose idea it had all been in the first place. Louise also decided to go with the others as she had ideas of going to Bala at the weekend.

Our next landfall was on the Knoydart shore of Loch Nevis. En-route we held the first ever Sleat Frisbee Championships which had to be abandoned when a swarm of jellyfish invaded the "pitch". There's not much ventures into my tent at night when I take my trainers off, but the clegs and midges were so voracious here that I was losing my beauty sleep and so we fled next morning from this otherwise excellent site.

So, it was over the sea to Skye in absolutely tropical weather. I shared a double with G.A. for the crossing to Isle Oronsay and he very kindly did the paddling to enable me to read the last few chapters of my book. (Well, he needs the exercise).

A night under Oronsay's light saw us fit, we hoped, for the notorious Kylerhea Straits and, with their usual meticulous planning,
Dave /

Dave and Jock got us through the narrows with a helpful tide and on to our next base on Skye. We were lucky with this one as we landed earlier than planned because of a deterioration in the weather, and it turned out to be an excellent spot. It had all a canoe-camper could ask for including a red flashing light off the beach, which was to prove valuable in homing us in on our returns from Kyle of Lochalsh about 3 miles across the way.

By now it was time for Jock and Tina to go home so it was a depleted party who struck camp for the last lap through Loch Alsh; past Eilean Donan Castle and up Loch Duich to Shiel Bridge. From here the road lay home, but not before we showed our versatility by conquering the Five Sisters of Kintail. (Before any of you leave for there, I should say that the Sisters are Mountains, not girls.)

It was a great trip. Book now for next year's trip..... the sun always shines on Forth folk.

WORLD SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS.
MERANO, ITALIA. 1983. RESULTS
BRITAIN WINS GOLD MEDALS IN
K1 MEN and K1 LADIES.

K1 M	1	R.Fox	GB	207.18
	2	A.Prijon	BD	211.32
	3	P.Micheler	BD	212.37
	10	J.Dolan	GB	216.71
K1 L	1	E.Sharman	GB	232.34
	2	J.Roderick	GB	236.34
	3	M-F Grange	France	238.75
	6	G.Allan	GB	244.93
C1	1	J.Lugbill	USA	221.94
	2	D.Hearn	USA	222.87
	3	J.Vidmar	JUG	234.27
	4	P.Keane	GB	234.38
	17	J.Taylor	GB	254.96
C2	1	Haller/Haller	USA	246.33
	2	Calori/Calori	FR	248.05
	3	Garvis/Garvis	USA	256.61
	7	Jamieson/Williams	GB	259.86
	16	Smith/Smith	GB	272.12
	20	Joce/Owen	GB	277.19
K1M Team	1	GB		232.24
	2	BD		235.16
	3	CSSR		238.01
K1 L Team	1	France		270.76
	2	GB		285.51
	3	CSSR		287.41
C1 Team	1	USA		249.41
	2	CSSR		276.16
	3	GB		276.63
C2 Team	1	CSSR		288.57
	2	USA		295.50
	3	GB		298.20
K1 M GP	1	A.Wolffhardt	Osterreich	2 58.80
	2	C.Pringent	France	2 59.45
	3	J.Gotz	Schweiz	3 00.90
	15	J.Dolan	GB	3 12.13
K1 L GP	1	S.Garriock	GB	3 24.56
	2	G.Allan	GB	3 32.65
	3	M.Kubricanova	CSSR	3 34.44

WORLD WW CHAMPIONSHIPS
MERANO, ITALIA. 1983. RESULTS
DISAPPOINTING RESULTS FOR BRITAIN BUT
GILL ROBBIE COMES 12th in K1 L

K1 M	1	M.Previde-Massara	ITAL	22 09.97
	2	D.Pfeiffer	BD	22 12.11
	3	K.Hollerieth	BD	22 13.23
	19	J.Hibble	GB	22 45.78
C2	1	Madore/Lieupart	FRANCE	23 01.49
	2	Thiel/Bichat	FRANCE	23 05.67
	3	Berngruber/Eckert	BD	23 10.15
	11	Kay/Pearton	GB	23 43.50
	18	Goode/Williams	GB	24 18.82
K1 L	1	D.Stupp	BD	23 53.36
	2	G.Grothaus	BD	23 54.81
	3	K.Wahl	BD	24 01.12
	11	S.Hornby	GB	24 44.71
	12	G.Robbie	GB	24 52.17
	15	C.Helm	GB	25 06.39
	20	F.Mitchell	GB	26 03.65
C1	1	G.Zok	FRANCE	24 00.51
	2	E.Libuda	BD	24 10.32
	3	S.Masle	JUGO	24 21.19
	16	S.Wells	GB	25 04.11
K1M Team	1	BD		22 48.14
	2	Osterreich		22 55.10
	3	France		22 55.19
	7	GB		23 23.40
C2 Team	1	France		23 51.48
	2	BD		23 51.71
	3	Italia		24 29.80
	6	GB		25 06.34
K1 L Team	1	BD		24 44.56
	2	France		25 25.17
	3	GB		25 26.02
C1 Team	1	France		25 27.87
	2	Jugoslavija		25 28.05
	3	BD		25 41.51
	5	GB		26 08.26

NOT ONE BRITISH BOAT GOT TOP 10 PLACING BUT LADIES K1 Team TOOK A BRONZE.

THE BRITISH W.W. TEAM SUFFERS BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE FUNDING, TRANSPORT ETC. A SERIOUS RETHINK IS REQUIRED FOR THE FUTURE. (from Canoeist Magazine)

LATE MARATHON NEWS

T.D.W.

14th AUGUST - FORTH & CLYDE CANAL

Andy Morton had to work harder to retain this trophy, the start having been moved to Glasgow. Alan Meikle paddled well for second place and Angus Morrison took so long that he arrived in Falkirk with a beard! Euan Paterson, training for Triathlons, won the Kirkintilloch start from John Ringwood, and third was Jim Craig (of Irvine "VICS" according to the results sheet!!). Fast improving Angela Whitelaw was First Lady.

20th AUGUST - TAIL O' THE BANK

Conditions could be described as 'exhilarating' for this year's event - so much so that the majority opted for W.W. Racers or sea-boats. Despite this, one of the two K1 starters won by a good margin and, need it be said, it was Andy Morton? - for the eighth year in a row! Ian Bownes looked pretty much at home in the conditions (as well he might) coming second in a W.W. Racer and that other Wild Water enthusiast Kenny Bryce, third.

21st August - IRVINE

45 paddlers and some very close racing made this a memorable event. If it is the fabulous prizes so generously provided, then TESCO LIMITED deserve a big vote of thanks for attracting such a large field. Unfortunately the T.V. went once more south of the Border, as did the power drill with respectively Robin Belcher and Richard Lucas. But Andy was very close to getting an extension lead for the 2 drills he already has. Richard's sister made their trip worth while as first lady from Alison Edwards, and Forth's ladies, Sue and Jane, continue to make ripples in flat water racing with 3rd and 4th places.

ROBIN BELCHER, at present gracing the Scottish scene, is no stranger, having won our Lubnaig Marathon on a number of occasions. Among his more recent and prestigious successes, however, is his win in the World Cup event in Copenhagen, making him unofficial World Marathon Champion for the second year running. Robin then went on to compete in the 300 mile Arctic Race, paddling K1 on Grade 4/5 rapids and coming 3rd. A Welshman, not without a drop of 'Scotch' in his veins, 30 year old Robin became a father earlier this year. We hope he enjoys his stay here, where he will take part in the Loch Tay Triathlon the week-end before paddling in the Tay Marathon.

SCOTTISH TEAMS - TAY MARATHON AND LIFFEY DESCENT.

<u>TAY</u>	<u>'A' TEAM</u>	<u>LIFFEY</u>
SEN.MEN K1	A.Morton FORTH K.Fraser ROXBURGH S.Murphy IRVINE	JUN. MEN N. Davidson KIRKCALDY S. McCartney PAISLEY
SEN.MEN K2	R.Christie/ D.Batchelor IRVINE	LADIES G. Robbie STIRLING UNI. J. Wilson FORTH S. Ward FORTH
JUN.MEN K1	S.McCartney PAISLEY N.Davidson KIRKCALDY	TEAM MANAGER: D. Wolfe FORTH.
JUN.MEN K2	A.Chisholm/ P.Maycock KIRKCALDY	
LADIES K1	G.Robbie STIRLING UNI.	

'B' TEAM

G.Wilson FORTH
P.O'Brien/
C.O'Brien KIRKCALDY
M.Kinninmonth KIRKCALDY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL AND WE WISH YOU ALL SUCCESS

COMMODORE'S COMMENT

It is with mixed feelings that we have decided to cancel our Monday night sessions at Craiglockhart Sports Centre after several successful years, and transfer instead to our own facilities at the Jack Cuthill Building. My original plan when we acquired the site at the canal was to have regular Club activities there ultimately when our facilities were complete. But the meetings at Craiglockhart this year have been poorly attended, and in our present financial position we cannot afford to subsidise an activity which was breaking even at best, and losing up to £10 a night on several weeks. However it was very encouraging to see a good turn-out at the first session at the canal, with people taking advantage of the slalom gates as well as a good group playing canoe polo further up the basin. With everyone contributing 50p for the session, it should not be long before we can buy ourselves another shower for the girls changing-room and reduce the bottle-neck at changing time. Meantime, the more members who come down regularly on a Monday night, the sooner we transfer our attention to purchasing other communal equipment for the Club.

/ / / / /

There have always been two points of view about the role of our Club. The original policy, which is still held by several members, was that Forth CC was a Club for committed canoeists, not for introducing masses of transient novices to the rudiments of the sport in the hope that one or two might stick at it and stay with us for some time. Craiglockhart Sports Centre themselves offer summer-school courses to school children of a week's duration. If these youngsters have achieved at least a minimum Star Test standard, we could then accept them for membership of the Club. We may not necessarily insist that they own a canoe, as was the case in the old days, but we could insist that they at least furnish themselves with a paddle or buoyancy aid as a minimum. We certainly do not seem to have the dedicated coaches willing to give time to absolute novices, so this may be a reasonable way to ensure that the summer courses at Craiglockhart are reasonably subscribed and that we are not overloaded with 'summer swallows' who take up our limited resources and disappear with the onset of winter.

I would be pleased to have your views.

/ / / / /

With the dismantling of the Lothian Region Leisure Services Department and general reductions in Local Authority expenditure, it was a pleasant surprise to see that our Lothian and City District Councils are continuing with the Sports Scholarship scheme from which several competitors benefited under the Region's supervision. If you are competing at least at Regional level, you may be eligible for consideration for a Sports Scholarship (free pass to Recreation and training facilities) or even for a Grant. But you will have to be quick to get your application form returned by the end of August for this session. Apply for a form to your District Leisure Services department as soon as you read this, otherwise you will have to wait till February of next year.

/ / / / /

R.K.R.

FORTH CANOE CLUB NOTES

As you may already have read, we have had to stop our club night at Craiglockhart Sports Centre because of lack of interest, and move to our own facilities at Lower Gilmore Place. It was disappointing to see fewer and fewer people turning up each week at Craiglockhart. But what has happened now? Even after only two weeks, we have had to turn people away because we just cannot cope with the numbers. Last week almost every useable boat was on the water and there was a queue for Bats to play canoe polo.

The reason for the upsurge in enthusiasm seems to be that there is more to do on the canal, e.g. practice on the slalom gates and play polo. Whatever it is, my faith is now restored and our main task now must be to improve our changing facilities to cope with the numbers. Any volunteers?! we need people with some knowledge of woodwork to make up some duckboards for the floor. Please 'phone Kelso or Gordon if you think you are capable.

It is disappointing to see how badly prepared some people are when they turn up on a Monday night. Some end up shivering in wet clothes and even go home in the same clothes that they paddle in. You **MUST** bring a change of clothing because whenever you go out in a canoe you WILL GET WET. You are also strongly advised to have a shower either before you leave or when you get home, especially if you have capsized.

We are the oldest, one of the biggest, and one of the most active canoe clubs in Scotland and yet we fail in one fundamental duty of a canoe club:- we cannot supply instruction to complete beginners in the basics of canoeing. It appears that there is no-one in the club who is willing to undertake this basic duty and, as a result, there are some younger members who probably have little idea of such things as basic safety precautions, boat preparation and rescue techniques. Does anybody in the club have any form of instructor qualification? If you have, then we need you on a Monday night at the canal. If you do not, then have you thought of doing the tests? We can advise you on how to go about it. I had to turn several beginners away last week and advise them to look for basic instruction elsewhere e.g. Craiglockhart or Port Edgar. It would do the Club's image a lot more good if we could offer this service.

The Club Night will move to St. Augustines swimming baths on Monday 12th September from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost will be 50p per person.

You are encouraged to buy your own equipment as soon as you can afford it. If you have been involved in canoeing for more than a year then you should at least have your own paddle and buoyancy aid/lifejacket so that dependence on club equipment is reduced. These are expensive items especially for junior members, and in order to reduce the cost as much as possible, we intend to negotiate a bulk order club discount from a supplier. If you would like to buy a paddle or buoyancy aid or both at a substantially reduced price then please contact Gordon Cuthill as soon as possible so that he can get an indication of the number of people interested. Remember the more we order, the more chance there will be of a bigger discount.

Costs very approximately will be ...	Buoyancy aids - £10 - £15
	Paddles - £10 - £20

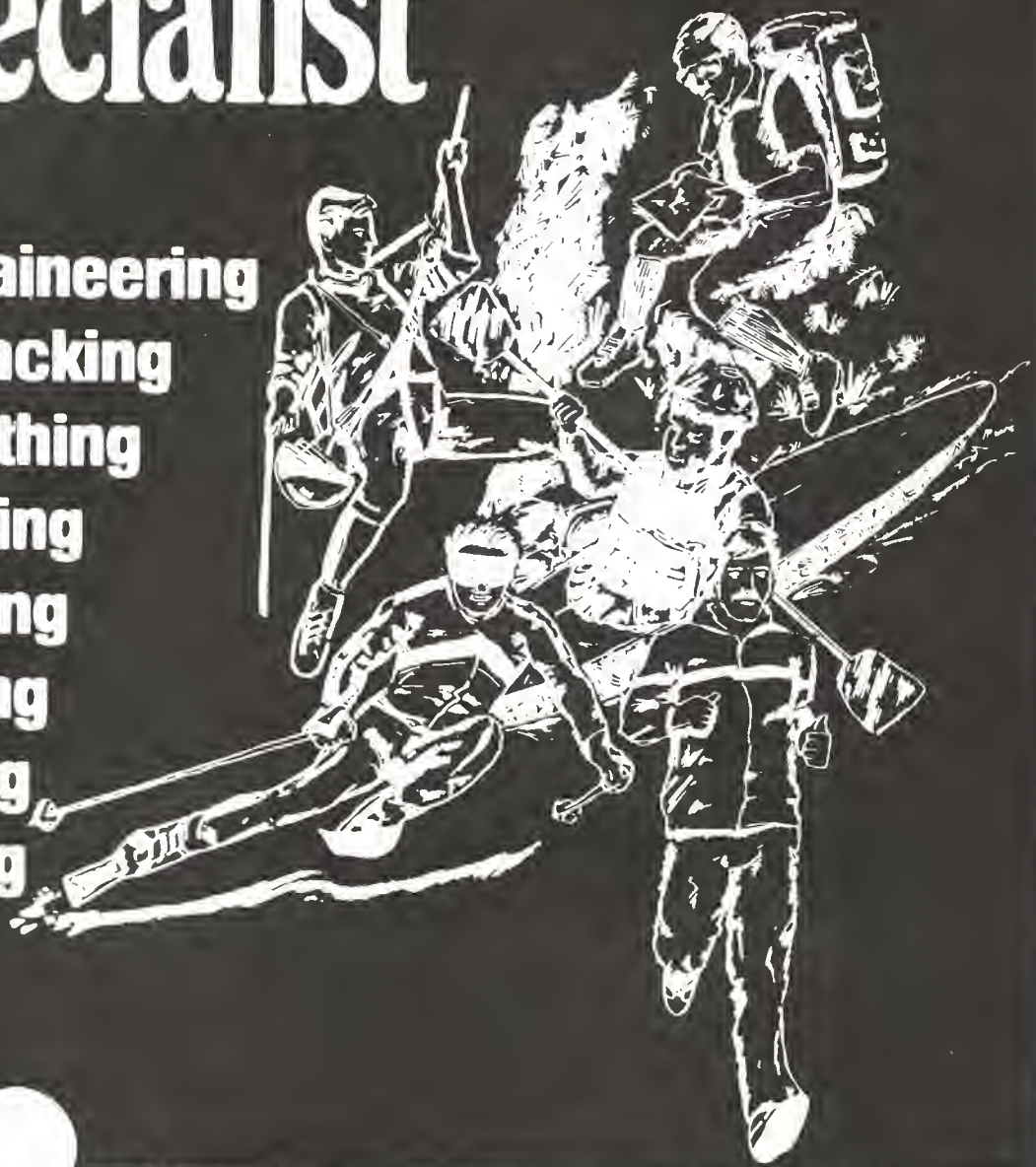
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The Club will be holding a SLALOM TRAINING DAY on SUNDAY 28th August. This will be on the ALVA, about 3 miles north of Alloa in Fife. The main purpose of the event is to introduce newcomers to slalom canoeing and to encourage those who already have an interest.

By the time you read this it will probably be too late to enlist but if it is successful then we may run another one next year.

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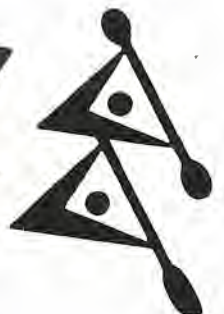
LENDAL is a privately owned company run by canoeists. Both directors have competed in two Olympic Games each and have each held National Sprint and Long Distance Racing titles. Both Marianne and Alistair Wilson have been active canoeists for the past twenty five years and have wide experience of competitive, 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
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 - 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.
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