

# Keep Paddling

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## Editorial

*By Alan O'Neill*

Issue 3 seems to have crept up pretty quickly – even if there is a lot to talk about! This issue see's updates to the ACE Scheme, exciting news with regard to funding and much more. It was reported last issue that the club has achieved the ACE Gold Award – well done to all involved. News reports and press releases about this can be found on the Angus Council web site, just type in ACE Gold into the search box and you should find it.

Recently two members have reported a problem accessing the Summer Programme from the web site – I have checked and can find no problems at my end – if this happens to you, have a look for any messages appearing in the status bar (grey bar at bottom of window), and send me a message with as much detail as you can, and I'll look into it.

Congratulations to Brian Crowe for passing his Kayak Level 3 assessment recently.

**Keep Paddling**

*Alan*



*"Angus Council is in the forefront of support for local clubs and we are seeing a considerable number of clubs gaining ACE Awards. ACE is a quality standard and any club gaining that award is making a statement of its commitment to quality." - Joy Mowatt, Convener of Environmental & Leisure Services*

Diary Dates			
May		June	
7	Open Canoe family trip	11	Trip details TBD
14	White Water Race introduction	18	Trip details TBD
		25	Canoe Safety Test Training Day
		29	Last date for articles July newsletter
31	Monthly committee meeting		

## Competition Corner

By Pete Ritchie

I am going to have a look at Marathon racing in this issue. Some of you will have taken part in our entry to the Glasgow – Edinburgh challenge. This is a great way to find out about long distance paddling in Scotland. Here is what the SCA has to say about this form of competition:

“Fun for all ages and types of canoe”

Marathon canoeing racing is fun and may be enjoyed by people of all ages in any type of canoe. During the 2003 season, paddlers from 6 years to over 70 years of age took part.

Marathon racing boats are designed to travel fast in a straight line and are therefore narrower and less stable than many other types of canoe. They come in single and double types. The Centre of Excellence at the Lowport Centre in Linlithgow is used extensively for competition and training events throughout the year. It has been operating there since its opening in 1997.

### Marathon Distances

Marathon racing in Scotland takes place over distances from 4 to 54 miles on all types of water from lowland canals to lochs, rapid rivers and estuaries. The racing season runs from March through to October with events most weekends and some weekday evenings. Paddlers from Scotland have regularly taken part in the British National and Hasler Trophy Marathon championships. Most races are open to all paddlers; however organisers may restrict entries at races where there are potentially hazardous conditions. Last year Neil Rait completed the Glasgow – Edinburgh event in a K2 with a combination of other club members in the boat. *See photo.*



**Neil Rait and Sue Houstoun**

The expert to speak to in the club is Robbie Blankenstein. As with the White Water Racing, it is hoped that we can have a trip to Kirkcaldy Canoe Club who are the leading exponents of sprint and marathon racing to try out the kayaks and see if this will be your ideal sport.

Pete

## Funding Issues

*By Alan O'Neill*

**M**any of you know that Angus Canoe Club had an excellent start when first formed as a result of a successful bid to the **Direct Grants** organisation – this bid was put together by club member Scott Petrie, and was for the sole purpose of formalising coaches qualifications to enable them to take members out on the water.

Late last year (2005) another successful application was made, this time to **Awards For All**. This application was for junior equipment. This project is still ongoing, and will be complete by September this year. This bid alone meant that for the first time, junior club members had a range of brand new equipment to choose from when taking part on club trips.

Following a generous gesture from Angus Council Community Education Department, Angus Canoe Club has taken delivery of 11 adult kayaks (only) and 2 open canoes on a long loan basis. The club committee is currently looking at plans to outfit these to a reasonable specification to enable members to use them from within the club's own resources. As usual, none of this comes cheap!

The **Torch Trophy Trust** administers a bursary scheme called the **Commander Collins Bursary**. During February and March the club applied to the scheme for the maximum available grant (£1000) for club coach education and training. The **Torch Trophy Trust** provides funds for that express purpose. Already, club coaches are benefiting from this bursary, which will effectively allow coaches to progress to the next level and in alternative disciplines, at a subsidised cost. This in turn will allow the more junior coaches (in terms of where they are in the coaching scheme) to move up too.

Finally, with all this equipment, we still rely on Angus Council for transportation. With this in mind, an application to the **Angus Council Community Grant Fund** is being drafted with our sights set on a trailer to transport all this equipment around. The committee responsible meets on a 2 monthly cycle, so by the July newsletter (if we are lucky) there may be something to report!

You can see that there is lots' happening, but not without your support, so ...

***Keep Paddling***

*Alan*

## Glasgow – Edinburgh Challenge

By Pete Ritchie

### Return of the A – Team

This is the tale of the Angus Canoe Club's return to defend the Glasgow-Edinburgh Challenge open relay title.



*Steve, Michael and Colin getting off to a good start*

It all started from Alan's house on Friday evening. Three paddlers, one open (Canadian) canoe and vast amounts of paddling equipment set off on the epic struggle. We became five paddlers at Dundee and headed for our high quality accommodation in Stirling (NOT!!). It was too late to find anywhere else so we endured the evening in the local Indian restaurant drinking Cobra lager to drown our sorrows.

At 07:15 we met up with Belinda and Laura and found the Houstoun's at the start line. The usual feeling of what on earth are we doing next to the Forth and Clyde canal in the middle of Glasgow with a boat soon passed and we crossed the start line.

The crew plan worked, the changeover points were no bother, it did not rain and the wind was in our favour! We finished with a time well ahead of last years effort. As a reward we set off to find a much more salubrious hotel that was cheaper than the dodgy Stirling place. An excellent meal, quality beer and an early night (really) followed.

The Cochrane family were to join the team on Sunday and we duly caught up with them at the start. This is at the Falkirk Wheel but on the Union canal this time. Those who paddled the last event were mystified by the fact that the light breeze was going in our direction and the sun was beaming down on us. Again the plans worked out. (Well almost).



***Sunday Start at the New Falkirk Interchange***

There were no major problems and everyone enjoyed the warm, pleasant weather. Again we arrived ahead of schedule and made it to the presentation. Of course we got our trophy back and the finishers t-shirts to wear with pride!

On behalf of the club I would like to thank Alan O'Neill for the effort he put in to ensuring our challenge worked out. As the only insured driver he had to do ALL the driving and still cope with many, many miles of paddling. I would also like to thank all the paddlers and the car drivers who made this year's event a success. It was a great weekend and I hope we can be there next year. I will take names for the team now if you want! It becomes easier as we gain the knowledge of the sections and where the best changeover points are located.

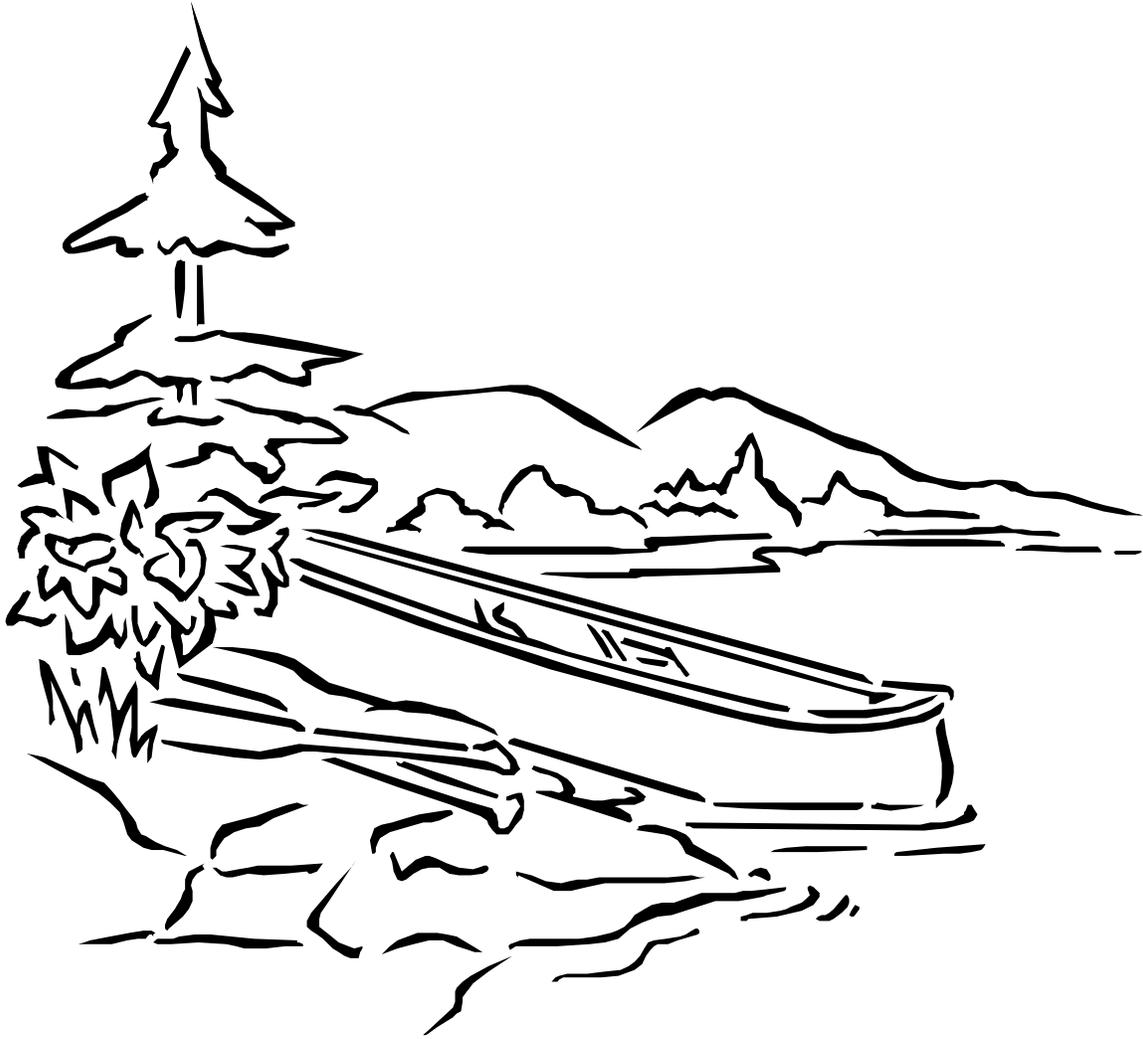


***Linlithgow Basin Sunday morning***

*Pete*



No Prizes, Just A Bit of Fun with Edition 3 Colouring In Picture





*ANGUS CANOE CLUB*

## WHITE WATER RACE

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Northwaterbridge. 12:00hrs.**

The last edition of the club newsletter detailed the sport of white-water racing. Now is your chance to find out what it is like to take part in this. We have borrowed some racers from the Dundee University fleet and the plan is to spend some time learning about the kayaks and paddling them on the flat. We will then have a time trial to the "sprint" format over a short, safe section of grade 1 water. The plan is to run this on the river North Esk. (Anyone who decides the WWR kayaks are too extreme can have a run in a normal kayak.) Apart from a fun day on the water, if you intend taking the star awards or going on to coaching, this is an essential part of your paddling education!



Photos from [www.wildwater.org](http://www.wildwater.org) of racing at Grandtully.

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