



# Keep Paddling

March 2010

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Here we are again, almost at the end of another round of pool sessions – and looking ready to head off into the great outdoors! I know that quite a number of you are keenly looking forward to getting outside, I know I am. Rest assured that the club committee are working hard at putting together a wide and varied program for the summer months, look for further details on the web site and also in this newsletter. There's a small note about memberships too. Enjoy! **Keep Paddling. Alan**

**POOL SESSIONS.** Finally ... the pool sessions draw to a close for this year, any thanks to the coaches who ran it so admirably (thanks, Gair, Iain, Mel and Steve). **The final pool session for this year is 28<sup>th</sup> March – please note the changed date!!** All paddlers appear to have had a good time, and I think its important that they finish with maximum effort in the last two sessions. Make sure you turn up next week especially! We should also record our thanks for the pool staff who have helped us out over the last 5 months – thank you.

**THE GREAT OUTDOORS.** As we get ready to head for **The Great Outdoors**, the club committee continue to work hard planning a wide variety of interesting and informative trips for club members. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the first half of the summers trips will be on the web site. Watch out for emails too, and register you interest with the trip coaches well in advance, please. Trips are being planned with all levels in mind so there should be something for everyone.

The first formal outdoor activity of 2010 is hoping to be **Monikie Madness on 18<sup>th</sup> April** – we just await final confirmation that our booking is OK. Not to worry though, if it does not go ahead at Monikie, we'll keep to that date but go elsewhere. Keep an eye on your inbox.

Please bear in mind that this has been a longer and colder winter than we've had for some time, and I notice that the river levels have risen quite a bit this week – due to the snow melt in the hills – which means that the water will still be very cold. It's a never ending assessment of paddlers, their ability, the weather, and everyones safety that will ultimately drive decisions about trips and whether they go ahead. At the final analysis, the coach in charge on the day has the final say about whether the trip goes ahead as planned.



*"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

### April

11	Highland Series Marathon, River Spey
15	Monthly Committee Meeting
18	Monikie Madness - <a href="#">Alan</a> and ?
24-25	Glasgow-Edinburgh Challenge - <a href="#">Alan</a> and ?

### May

9	Club Trip - <a href="#">Alan</a> and ?
16	Grand-Dunk, River Tay
23	Club Trip – <a href="#">Alan</a> and <a href="#">Steve</a>
30	Club Trip – <a href="#">Alan</a> and ?

**CLUB MEMBERSHIPS.** Thanks to all those members who have reaffirmed their commitment, and also to those new members joining us for the first time. I hope you all feel it has been worthwhile. There are still a small number who appear undecided – I'll try to persuade them to join up, but in doing so may inadvertently send an email to someone who has already continued their membership. Sorry if that's you!

**GLASGOW – EDINBURGH CHALLENGE.** This event takes place over the weekend 24/25 April and once again promises to be an event not to be missed! The start point is in the middle of Glasgow and it ends the following day in the middle of Edinburgh. The route is along the Forth and Clyde canal and stops at the Falkirk Wheel. Much needed respite overnight and then into the Union canal for the second day.

**Expressions of interest** are what is required at the moment. Once the committee has an idea of numbers and experience etc we will be better placed to formulate our entries and get sorted out. As we have done in previous years, it is anticipated that there will be an opportunity during **Monikie Madness** to see if it is for you. This will be good fun in its own right, and should help members get used to the idea of paddling as part of a team and in a craft they might not have been in before! Interested parties please pass their expressions of interest to Alan ([alan@anguscanoecub.org.uk](mailto:alan@anguscanoecub.org.uk)) for the time being.



**Support party** – A much needed element and do as valuable a job as the paddlers. We couldn't do it without you. If you feel you can support in this role (you are the parent of a child that wants to paddle, perhaps), then we welcome your support too!

**General outline.** Advance party travel down Friday evening, Saturday head for Glasgow where they RV with the Saturday paddlers. Off we go, leapfrogging to the Falkirk Wheel. At end of day, Advance party move to accommodation, Saturday paddlers too or head for home if you are only attending Saturdays festivities. Sunday morning, Advance party and paddlers head for the start, leapfrog to Edinburgh, head for home. Nothing to it!



*Michael, Alan and Pete settle down for another "long" leg!*



*Careful now*

"Love many, trust a few, but always paddle your own canoe."

*Anon*