



Keep Paddling

August 2010

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FROM THE CHAIR

This edition of **Keep Paddling** summaries all the activities that have been going on in the club since the early part of the summer to today. Make no mistake, there is a lot going on, and the club committee continue to work hard on members behalf. I'll try to fit everything in on the two pages, but anything I miss will be available from the website. Let me know how you are getting on.

Keep Paddling. Alan

AWARDS FOR ALL SUCCESS. Many of you will be aware that the club made an application to the National Lottery (Awards For All) recently. The application centred around the expansion of our open canoe facilities – effectively doubling our fleet, being able to provide all the ancillary equipment necessary to undertake expeditions, and importantly, allow the club to be completely independent in that regard. I am delighted to announce that the award application has been successful, and the equipment has been purchased. [Brookbank Canoes](#) (of Perth) provided the equipment and the picture below shows Club Chairman (Alan O'Neill) receiving the equipment from [Brookbank](#) (Perth) manager, Cam Allan. Myself and Brian Crowe (Vice Chair) spent a day recently "fitting out" the canoes ready for club use. As we get back to more paddling you will get an opportunity to use the open canoes or even take part in some open canoe trips. Well done to all involved, and if you haven't tried it, why not take this opportunity? I'm often asked if I prefer kayak or canoe? Its not about that for me – they are very different disciplines, and I appreciate each of them for what they are! **Alan**



Cam Allan (Brookbank) hands over Open Canoe equipment to Club Chairman, Alan O'Neill



Photo by Dave Stewart

New canoe in action in the Highland Marathon piloted by Alan O'Neill and Colin Hall – winners in the veteran class!



"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, (former) Convener of Environmental & Leisure Services

Diary Dates

August

29 Forfar Loch

September

18 / 19 4 Star Leader
26 Foundation Safety and Rescue

RIVER SPEY WEEKEND. The beginning of June saw the much vaunted **Spey Weekend** with a good number of members staying at the Loch Park bunkhouse, and paddling on the River Spey in kayak and canoe on the Saturday, and then splitting with some heading for the River Findhorn and others on the River Spey (at two separate locations) on the Sunday. It was agreed by all present that an enjoyable time was had and this type of activity should be encouraged. Here are just one or two of the photo's taken over the weekend, there are more on the web site.





OPEN CANOE TRAILER. The club committee sought to replace the club trailer last autumn – we had a valuable trailer which wasn't really suitable for our needs. After some discussion it was decided to sell the trailer and then with the proceeds, engage a local firm to build firstly, an open canoe trailer (this would fit nicely with the plan to



increase open canoe resources); and secondly, to ask the same firm to build a kayak trailer. The open canoe trailer has been delivered, and has already been in use transporting the new canoes around. The photo shows the trailer in use at Forfar Loch recently. As for the kayak trailer, it is hoped to have the trailer in about 3 weeks time.

TAY DESCENT. 23rd and 24th October sees this years annual [Canoe and Kayak Show](#), Paddle 2010. An increasingly popular weekend, a new event is to take place this year, the [Tay Descent](#). Club member Pete Ritchie has volunteered to co-ordinate a club entry / trip – so please get your name to [Pete](#) asap, even if it is just to register an interest at this stage. There are deadlines to registration for the event, and there are also advantages in doing so, so please do get in touch with [Pete](#).

FOUNDATION SAFETY AND RESCUE. As the name suggests, this course can be seen as a beginners course in canoe and kayak safety – not just your safety, but also those around you. Imagine the day you are on a club trip and someone near you gets into difficulty. What would you do? This course is for all and is an essential element of a paddlers learning and experience. As a club coach, I rely on members abilities when I take trips. Indeed, the venue for any trip is dictated, in part, by the abilities of those paddlers taking part on the day. Some weeks ago the club arranged for an FSRT course, at heavily discounted costs, for club members – it had to be postponed because of the lack of uptake. The committee would like to reschedule the course, provisionally for the 26th September. Whether or not the course goes ahead will depend upon numbers – and No, you don't need to be a particularly competent paddler to take part, and Yes, juniors will be welcome too! Find out more here.



THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS!

Could this be you ... ?
 ... In either of these positions?
 Could you help or assist in this incident?
 What do you carry in your kayak or on your person that could assist?
 Would you disappear round the next bend and compound the problem?

POST SCRIPT THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR. The club often tries to have an “end of summer / back to school” event, and this year I would be happy to host an event at Forfar Loch (easy parking, access to facilities) – on 29th August, say mid morning onwards. Let me know if you think you could manage to turn up. Further details by email / on [web site](#).

Summer Activities. There is definitely a pattern forming here – following a very busy winter pool session, an equally busy spring time we come to a sudden halt with the onset of summer. One might think that the better weather would serve to encourage more members to be out and about? Sadly, not the case. Perhaps its due to summer holidays? I don't know and I think I've stopped trying to guess – it seems we'll just have to accept that summer paddling is not what the general membership wants – or is it?

[Keep in touch](#) and most of all – **Keep Paddling!**