

# Andrew Walker Manwell

1931 - 2017

Andrew was born in Paisley, on the 13th May 1931, to John and Miriam, who sadly both passed away when he was only 7 years of age. A few years later he moved to Carlisle to stay with his grandmother. When he left school in Carlisle, he studied geography and physical education at York College and became a teacher after that, teaching in Brampton Secondary School and then Carlisle Technical College.

In 1966 he was offered the post of Assistant Director of PE at Aberdeen University, and a few years later, was promoted to Director, a post he held until his retirement in 1989. It was during his tenure at Aberdeen University that he greatly influenced canoeing in Scotland. In the 70s, canoe and kayak racing was in its heyday: large numbers of youngsters took up the sport, and there were slaloms, white water races, canoe polo, surfing, marathon and sprint races all over the country. If you competed in all disciplines, you could fill almost every weekend with a race somewhere or other in Scotland. So many competed in the four main disciplines that there was a trophy awarded to the best all-rounder, the Canoeist of the Year. Those days are

gone, sadly, but Andrew's influence lingers on. There are many of us still paddling, who owe Andrew a great debt for his energy and enthusiasm for promoting canoeing and kayaking in Scotland during those years.

He certainly influenced my life. When I finished university in Glasgow, I was already an enthusiastic competitor. What next? Well, a spot of teaching seemed a good idea, because of the long holidays in which to travel to Europe and race. Which college? Jordanhill was the obvious choice for an Alexandria boy, but Andrew had made such an impact in the Aberdeen area, there was no difficulty in deciding where to go to be trained as a teacher. To be honest, the teaching was a side issue, the canoeing in Aberdeen was so good, it filled my every day, and that of all the other enthusiastic paddlers I met there. There was a large



boathouse by the river with sprint and marathon kayaks for all to share. Every part of the river Dee was used for racing: slaloms at Invercanny and Potarch, white water racing from Potarch to Banchory and a (real) marathon from Banchory to Aberdeen. And we didn't just concentrate on paddling in Aberdeen. Andrew's enthusiasm spread to managing the Scottish team and taking us to Europe on a number of wonderful trips. He took his family too, and my wife spent many happy days with his wife June, and his two daughters, Sheena and Jane, in the picturesque Alpine venues where we raced. We competed in sprint and marathon in Europe too, under his watchful eye.

Many have written to me after Andrew's death on the 23rd of December, and all acknowledge his skill, devotion, and enthusiasm for sport in its widest sense. Here are some of the comments:

'I remember Andrew made us all run round every service area we stopped at on the way to Europe – no slacking on any of his trips, that's for sure!'

'He was well ahead of the others in coaching. We learned all about diet, aerobic and anaerobic exercise, how to train, and how to hydrate properly before and during races!'

'Andrew was always super-organised; he was his own man!'

'I remember the trips to Lipno, Skopje and Lofar. He was a model of professionalism as far as I was concerned – he set a high standard to

which we all had to aspire!'

'He was the driving force behind Aberdeen University Canoe Club!'

'He was a great influence on all our lives!'

'He was a gentleman, and one of the most supportive people I have ever met!'

And in his last few years, 'He was a friendly and cheery neighbour, and we were always amused by his physical fitness epics. We will all miss him hugely!'

He touched the lives of canoeists and many other sportsmen and women throughout his life, and we are all eternally grateful for that.

Thank you Andrew.

**Andrew Morton**

## Two Glaswegians

This winter has seen the loss of two native Glaswegians who have influenced me greatly.

I was one of Andrew Manwell's early students. Andrew was not so much an achiever himself as someone who helped other people to achieve, the true purpose of educators, and it is interesting to see the range of inputs of his students of that time to canoeing in Scotland and beyond. The ripples went wide and continue. It is my contention that even the Stott/Baillie Olympic slalom gold medal would have been less likely without Andrew's historical input.

Andrew's top sporting interest was canoeing and he was out with us, either on the water or driving the Land Rover and trailer, every weekend and more, at locations as far away from Aberdeen as Shepperton and Llandysul. While we pursued slalom kayaks, the standard white water river running craft of the day, he pushed the boundaries with C1 and C2, of which few existed at the time, and the university club had two KW6s, wild water racers rarely seen elsewhere, and he had an even rarer Angmagssalik sea kayak.

Later, cycling became a serious interest and he was out on his tricycle even in his final week. Triathlon was an intermediate stage and he established the concept of the permanent triathlon in remote Scotland,

initially the Morar, Moidart & Ardnamurchan, to be tackled when convenient, by getting locals such as shopkeepers to act as timekeepers with whom participants could check themselves in. The lateral thinking kept him ahead of the game in establishing the possible.

Duncan Winning has been described widely as an encyclopedia and a gentleman. In my opinion he was also very much a man of principle, someone who only did what he believed to be right. His immediate resignation from the SCA, of which he was the Honorary President, when a change was made which he felt unacceptable, must have hurt him even more than it shocked everyone else. Duncan and I had many long conversations on issues relating to the management of canoeing in Edinburgh and Nottingham and he was able to air issues through *Canoeist* which might otherwise have remained behind closed doors.

While it did not take too much imagination to step from Duncan the pen pusher to somebody pottering around the Clyde in a sea kayak, it was another matter to seeing him exploring the coast of Greenland, a step up from where most of us go. Duncan was very much of the category of 20th century paddlers who quietly undertook trips on the west coast of Scotland using kit which would challenge us today.

**Stuart Fisher**

## Ian D Pendleton

Ian was editor of *White Water* for a number of years. A member of the legal profession as his day job, he had great interest in slalom judging and he used to include judging supplements to tax slalomists with possible scenarios. He had held the Scottish Canoeist of the Year trophy, an indication of an all round paddling ability.

Roy Bradshaw recalls 'My main recollection of Ian is when my daughter and I first joined Manchester Canoe Club. Ian was collecting the money at the pool session we were attending; it was a damp miserable night. I shook the rain off and said to Ian "What weather."

'He replied "Now you are a canoeist, obviously; when it is a nice sunny day, who wouldn't want to be out canoeing?" and followed it

enthusiastically with "But if it is raining then the rivers are rising and you really want to be out canoeing."

'Our children actually were sitting at the tea table one evening when they said "Dad, it's raining; lets go canoeing."

'What an ambassador for canoeing.'

## Richard Pope

Richard was a member of the Reading A slalom team in the 1970s. He subsequently suffered a head injury in an accident when he was on his bike, from which he never fully recovered although his related death was sudden and unexpected. He leaves a wife, Jan, and children Alex and Leila.