



Temple Pier and John Cobb

Cidhe an Teampaill agus Iain Cobb

Pronounced: Kea an Teampeel agus Iain Cobb

If you had been at Temple Pier *Cidhe an Teampaill* (across the road) on 26th August 1952, you would have seen John Cobb's "Crusader" arriving to try to break the World Water Speed record. Crusader was the first water-borne craft to be designed and built for jet propulsion.

For the next month, Temple Pier was a hive of activity as Cobb and his 20-strong support team used it as their base for carrying out trials on the loch.

The world record attempt took place on 29th September 1952 amid great excitement. The Inverness Courier reported what happened:

"She skimmed over the course ... but then seemed to bounce twice on the water... next moment the horrified spectators saw the boat plunge into the loch in a whirl of spray and foam flecked with flying wreckage."

John Cobb was killed in the crash. The cause of the tragedy remains a mystery. However, Cobb did have the triumph of being the first man to travel on water at over 321 kilometres (200 miles) per hour.



"Crusader" being lowered into the loch.

Did you know...?

To break the world record bàrr an t-saoghail Cobb needed to travel a measured course of 1.6 kilometres (1 mile) and then return. The average speed over the two runs was used to calculate the official speed. He crashed before completing the second mile and so his achievement could not, officially, count.

"Urran do'n treun agus do'n iriosal"

This inscription appears on Cobb's memorial cairn - "Honour to the brave and to the humble."



John Cobb was greatly respected by the local community because of his quiet, friendly manner and his respect for local Sunday traditions. After his death, local people erected this memorial to him at Achnahannet, about 8 kilometres (5 miles) west of here on the A82.