



BASINGSTOKE CANAL CANOE CLUB



Report from the Chairman of the BCCC for the 2006 AGM

Introduction

This is the 27th year of the club and is my last report as your chairman. I wish the new chairman every success in their future tenure of this family-centered club. The club continues to benefit and enjoy membership from people from a variety of ages, skills and disciplines across the full range of canoeing and kayaking. There has been a steady increase in membership, and in particular family membership, as the following report shows. The club has grown and become stronger despite the present concerns with the future management of The Basingstoke Canal. We will hear more about the important work that has been progressing with this during the AGM. I will be sorry to stand down after a fun three years as your chairman

Membership

Club membership at the September 06

Year	Total Membership	Adults	Junior	Family	Hon	Affiliated
2003	104	38	14	49	4	3
2004	114	46	13	51	4	3
2005	136	45	12	68	3	8
2006	157	55	16	76	3	7

Equipment & Boathouse

There has been a continued gradual improvement of boats and equipment during the last year. Since moving to our Boatstore the club has had a boat replacement plan. Figures below indicate what we have assigned to each discipline for the year 2006/2007.

Canadian	£1000
Flat Water Racing.	£1000
General Equipment.	£ 400
Polo / Pool.	£ 500
Recreation/Paddle Power.	£ 600
Slalom	£ 600
White Water.	£ 500
Youth	£ 100

The Boat House

Some initial plans are under way for developing the facilities at the clubhouse but this is on hold until we have a better idea about how the canal will be managed in the future. The committee has set aside money to support these future needs.

Top Club & CASC

Well we have done it; we have finally been awarded our Club Mark and Top Club Awards. Thanks to all of you for supporting the recent presentation day at Mytchett. Having our local MP James Arbuthnot to present the awards was the highlight of my term as chairman. I was not alone in working towards this award, so please; it's your award be proud of it. We are already benefiting from this status with ongoing grants for new boats and equipment. We also now have all of our coaches, mentors and helpers processed through BCU Child Protection and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) procedures.

During the previous AGM, we adjusted our constitution to incorporate the potential to gain CASC status (Community Amateur Sports Clubs). The Inland Revenue has set up the scheme for clubs like ours so we can obtain gift aid funding from your donations to help towards fund raising.

Polo from Keith Ambrose

This year polo has been developing slowly within the club; interest in this discipline is fair though we have one individual, Harry Mudd, who has a dedicated interest, and is developing his skills at the Blackwater Valley Canoe Club on a Wednesday evening at Aldershot Lido. The BVCC is affiliate to us and they are trying to develop a competitive team.

For our club we are to purchase various size polo buoyancy aids, plus polo helmets for use on the canal during the club training evenings.

We have been looking at referee and coach training course for canoe polo as well as trying to develop a local canoe polo league between local canoe clubs, with the help of the BCU Southern region development officer.

Pool report from Keith Ambrose

Pool sessions are continuing to be popular for club members as a tool for rolling, stroke, star practice as well as having fun.

Session structure works well though we are going to change the number of pool sessions per month from January 2007.

Winter - October to March: 2 POOL SESSIONS PER MONTH

Summer - April to September: 1 POOL SESSION PER MONTH

- August: NO POOL SESSION

We will be looking at a life guard's course for some members who attend the pool sessions on a regular basis, as well as sorting out the racking and the repair of the base of the boat store at Odiham.

Training from Merry Williams

Our coaches have again been busy with training occurring most Thursdays and Saturdays through the year. Particular thanks to Lisa, Keith, Brian and Jon for contributing a lot of their time to the club to support this. Due to the dwindling light the formal training is now winding down but this is the ideal time to start building up some paddling experience on local, and other, rivers before moving on to your next award.

We have had a number of requests for training from parents who can only make Tuesday evenings. This is generally a very tricky evening to provide additional coaching but Chris Belton has offered to run adult training. If you would like to take advantage of this when the next Paddlepower season kicks off in April please let me know. (It will be a bit experimental but hopefully we can make it work ;-)

Trips

Our members have participated in several trips in kayaks and open canoes, taking in many different and scenic views. There have been the usual trips to the Barle, Dart and Usk and another successful trip to France. Brian ran a number of well-attended and very much enjoyed sea trips around Brown Sea Island and across to Harry's Rocks. Congratulations to Hazel Williams, Harry Mudd, Nick Biffin and Guy Pepper who spent a weekend on the Treweryn and all survived more than well to tell the tale. Please keep an eye on the web site and newsletter as we build trips for 2007.

Canadian report from Brian Biffin

It has been another active year in the OCC section. April saw Brian and Ann Biffin attending the BCU coaching update at Pangbourne where they learnt more about healthier methods of lifting canoes (Yet another use for those painters). A number of trips using Canadians went ahead, ranging from the River Thames (Crichlade to Lechlade) to the river Wye (Kern Bridge to Monmouth). During the year the paddle-power season continued with an excellent 1 and 2 star course. In November Brian and Lee headed up to Lake Windemere for the 'English Open Canoe Symposium' where a part from seriously damaging bank accounts and the Brownie points at home they attended workshops on OCC playboats, paddling on both the lake and then on a somewhat swollen local river. On the Sunday they did an excellent White Water solo trip on the river Lune. A real shame that there was no enough time to attend 'Harry Rocks' poling master class. Next year beckons!

Slalom report from Merry Williams

The Langham farm Slalom in June saw Rowan Williams, Paul and Andrew Jeffs gain promotion to Div 3. At the Shepperton Slalom in July Aidan Bell gained promotion to Div 3 on his very first event, an excellent result, and Hazel's 2nd place meant that she became our first Div 2 paddler in many years.

Hazel and Rowan enjoyed an excellent slalom training session up in Nottingham at the end of August; there should be more details somewhere in this newsletter. Unfortunately the event was oversubscribed and some good candidates from our club were unable to attend. If there is sufficient enthusiasm left, we might be able to create a DIY version of this training up at HPP. Let me know.

There were some superb displays of paddling skill at our end of season regatta and I hope that we will be seeing some new faces both at training and local competitions. Many thanks to Mike Simpson for designing such an ingenious (fiendish?) course and introducing the excellent scoring system for immediate feedback. More support from parents would be very much appreciated, and taking part in this would be a great boost. There are no pre-requisites, no slalom experience is assumed!

There are also plans afoot to arrange some local interclub slalom events. These should be taking place at Mytchett, Winchester and Reading. I will provide more details as I get them, but if you are prepared to help out with this then please contact me.

Youth/Paddlepower 2005/6 Report from Paul Jeffs

The Paddlepower scheme has continued its success in the club with 17 registrations for Paddlepower One and 39 for Paddlepower Two. Our taster and beginners sessions have been popular too, being filled virtually every Tuesday evening. This has meant anything between 50 and 70 youngsters on the water on Tuesday evenings from April through to the first Tuesday in September, with a break for August. In total we've run over 130 individual sessions. The final session was a Paddlepower 'Regatta' attended by everyone registered – this was a fantastically fun way of running competitive slalom, sprint and polo into a Tuesday evening. This will be repeated. Paul Jeffs has had fantastic support from the coaches on a Tuesday evening but is looking for help on the organisational side next year.

The club consistently put up two teams (sinkers and Swimmers) to the regional 'Paddlesport Challenge' event in the 2005/6 season and both did well, with the club organising the polo event (as well as winning it). The polo was so popular we instituted a new team – the 'Flyers'. The club has entered one team (the Eskimos) so far for this year's series.

Our youngsters have continued to get involved in all the club's activities (and grow in capability), from surfing at 'Wittering' to trips and competitive slalom and marathon racing.

Racing report from Charles Hicks

The racing team members are nearing the mid-point of the 2006/7 Hasler racing season, with Henley, Pangbourne and Windsor all now paddled. Marlow has been delayed due to high waters and a red alert on the Thames, but will be re arranged later in the season.

We came fifth in the 2005/6 Hasler season, out of more than 14 racing clubs in BCU's Southern Region, and have two fifths and a sixth places so far in 2006/7.

There have been good performances right across the team. A particular highlight has been the progress of many of our juniors, including Michael Lambert, who went from Division 8 to Division 4 during the twelve months, and Isobel and Naomi Smith, who went from 9 to 7, where they are already giving some of our faster adults a hard time in training! Thanks in particular to Brian Gandy and Richard Somerset for all their development work with young paddlers.

Our list of racers in the club has grown to over 30 and it is good to see how many of the participant families have mum or dad and children racing. Recruitment of yet more paddlers and family members to the team, continuing promotions (so as to give a more even distribution of paddlers across the divisions) and continued development and training of new young people (as well as the existing racers) are all needed to improve our ability to take on the best specialist racing clubs in the region at their own game.

Social

The traditional Boxing Day paddle followed by mulled wine and mince pies was again, well attend. The Henley paddle, with its pimms, strawberries and watching the races was just say a very enjoyable day out. Once again, many thanks to all who supported our Paddlefest and Clubmark presentation with James Arbuthnot

A heart-felt thank you to all the club members who willingly gave up time to coach, mend boats, organize and run events, write, paint and paddle to enable the club to be so successful. This club needs more of you!