

7th March 2010

Dear BCCC Member,

We are well into 2010 now with spring just around the corner. It is at this time of the year that we first start to see signs of animals appearing from their winter hibernation. Rumour has it that a 'Biffo' was seen in the Fleet Pond area just the other day! Seriously though, it is the time that our small band of volunteers advertise training and trips for the new year. Brian Biffin has just announced a varied and full calendar for those of us interested in open canoeing and sea-kayaking. Included in the list is a trip to a white-water destination. Details of Brian's calendar can be found on the club's website at:

<http://www.b3c.org.uk/waterfront/Canoeing2010.pdf>.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that the monthly Hare and Hounds event held on the 3rd Saturday of each month is **open to all members**. There is no restriction on the type of boat and distances are 2, 4 and 6 miles. It is an excellent opportunity to improve physical fitness, socialise with other club members and have a good laugh as you watch some of us fall in. Murray is a regular participant in his canadian canoe and his display of stamina and speed puts a lot of us younger people to shame. Starts are handicapped and set for the paddler to finish at 11:00. So for most the start is between 9:30 and 10:00. The next one is scheduled for Saturday 20th March. Contact Gavin Branch (gavin.branch@ntlworld.com) for more details.

The pool sessions are continuing to be popular thanks to the hard work of Lee Mathews, Brian Biffin and the volunteer coaches. The next session is on 28th March and will cover rolling and capsizing. See the club website for more details.

I was disappointed to hear that a small number of members feel that the Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club is no longer a multi-disciplined club. Their suggestion is that the club's focus is primarily racing and that somehow it is no longer a family-orientated club.

I have discussed these concerns with the BCCC committee and we feel that this complaint is not justified. We are however, more than willing to welcome additional volunteers who may have new ideas and suggestions and are willing to devote their time to organise new events. I list the committee's contact details at the end of this letter in case anyone wishes to volunteer their services.

Ours is very much a multi-disciplined club as can be seen by the following facts:

- The BCU, with its Club of the Year Award, recognises Clubs who demonstrate a variety of disciplines and activities. **BCCC has been runner up in this national award for the last two years running**.
- Every year our enthusiastic and tireless small group of volunteers arrange events. For example **some** of the events in 2009 included:
 - **Paddlepower** scheme
 - **Cadet Leader** scheme

- **Paddlesport Challenge** (which has, amongst others included included triathlon, whitewater racing, polo). Later this year there will be dragon boating, whitewater paddling and a fun regatta.
- **Cardington Trip**
- **Barle Trip**
- **French Trip**
- **Various sea trips.**
- **Touring on the Thames**
- **The summer shindig with BBQ**
- **Canoe orienteering**
- **Various white-water trips.**
- **Boxing Day paddle.**
- **An excellent race training programme** with 3 or 4 sessions a week throughout the year to keep everybody in shape.
- **Keep-fit sessions**

None of this would have been possible without the many coaches who give up their time to run all these activities. Did you know that all of our coaches are volunteers? They do not get any reward or recognition for their efforts other than the occasional “Thank you” and a ham salad supper in September. We are lucky to have a number of coaches who all have different interests and provide correspondingly diverse events for the members to enjoy.

Just in case you are not clear, the club communicates its activities and news items via the following:

- The BCCC website <http://www.b3c.org.uk/home/index.html>. Here you will also find the minutes of all committee meetings.
- The quarterly Waterfront magazine which is located on the club’s website and new issues are notified via email. Several copies are left in the club boathouse.
- The Club boathouse notice boards.
- Occasional e-mail circulation.
- The November AGM.

Brian Gandy (gandy@adslmail.newnet.co.uk) is the Waterfront editor and is always after material for the magazine.

So..... If you have a good idea for the club, e.g. a summer BBQ and paddle at the beach ... and wish to help organise, then please get in touch with any committee member or any of the volunteers (coaches etc).

The BCCC Committee is:

- Chairman: Alan Ebbage (ebbage_alan@emc.com; 01252 510735)
- Club Secretary: Liz Murnaghan (liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com; 01276 514766)
- Treasurer: Katie Truesdale (katie.truesdale@pobox.com)

- Committee members:
 - Alan Taylor (alan.1.taylor@uk.zurich.com)
 - Tracey Rees-Clark (tracyreesclark@aol.com)
 - Brian Biffin (brian.biffin@gmail.com)
 - Harvey Wade (harvey_wade@ntlworld.com)
 - Mark Dyer (markdyer-01@hotmail.co.uk)

Happy paddling and let us hope this winter's freeze ends some time soon!

Regards,

Alan Ebbage
BCCC Chairman