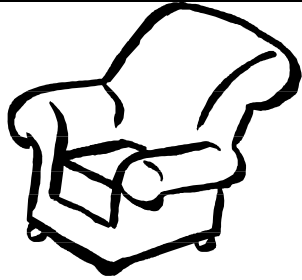




Waterfront

Issue 96

Dec03



From the Chair...

Welcome to the winter edition of Waterfront. This has had been a very important year for the club. With the boat store now in regular use and all the equipment that was once stored in member's gardens for many years now at Mytchett we are making good use of the clubs, now quite old fleet of boats. "A BIG THANKYOU" to all those that have painted, dismantled, built, coached, and generally helped over the last season. The club is evolving with PaddlePower being a great success, Polo and flat water racing (Marathon to most of us!) and in the future we hope to have a replacement plan for all equipment we own and also looking into expanding the boathouse into a clubhouse with proper changing and shower areas and a clubroom. But your help is needed to do all this, which will cost a considerable sum of money. This we will need to raise so your committee and I will be forming a fundraising/social sub committee with it's task to make canoeing/kayaking fun over the winter months and raise money for much needed equipment such as K2 and polo equipment. If you are interested in joining the team please let me know.

On a lighter note not many white water trips have been able to run due to water levels these last few

months, "can we all do the rain dance please!".

Congratulations to all our award winners this year a lot of hard work, enthusiasm and effort is clearly around us, good luck for next year. I hope like me you have all posted your letters or sent e-mails to Santa by now requesting of new paddling kit! An ideal opportunity to show off this kit would be our traditional Boxing Day funny hat paddle at Crookham Wharf from about 10.30am. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Yours

Lee Matthews

Saturday Mornings.

Stuck for something to do on Saturday mornings? Why not go for a paddle? Some families are already taking the opportunity to use the clubs boats on these and other times that suit them. All you need to do is to obtain the door code from the Quartermaster (Dave Bevan).

Please ensure that everybody wears a buoyancy aid, uses a boat suitable to his/her skills and size and have fun! The 'Flatwater' racing team train regularly on Saturday mornings from the Mytchett boat store so you will not be on your own.

These Saturday morning sessions are not supervised by any of the clubs coaches so, as sanctioned by the BCU and the insurance cover all sessions are at YOUR risk! Canoeing and kayaking are water contact and assumed risk sports.

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NEWS

Money, money, money

For those of you who weren't at the last AGM you might not have been aware that the Committee proposal to increase your membership fees was met with an outcry. It was "That's not enough!" We do not have the authority at an AGM to increase the membership fees willy nilly but only by the amount proposed by the committee. So the Committee has been looking at other ways to raise money to fund all the new boats we are having. (6 Masters general purpose plastic boats and 4 Lightning Junior K1).

It has been decided that where paddlers are using Club resources i.e. boats or coaches there will be a small charge. For young people registered on the Paddlepower scheme this will be £12pa. Paddlepower registered youngsters who wish to take 1 and 2 star courses the fee will be £10 including badge and certificate.

For adults and non-paddlepower registered youngsters the fees for 1 and 2 star courses will be increased to £20 including badge and certificate. For 3 star the fee will be £20 excluding badge and certificate.

On the new membership renewal form there will be a section to encourage regular users of club equipment to contribute to the replacement and wear and tear of this equipment. An annual "hire" charge of two thirds of your membership was suggested. It was felt that this was simpler to administrate than a £2 seat fee every time you used a boat. The cost of Pool Sessions remains unchanged.

We feel that canoeing still offers great value for money as a family activity. Compare the costs with French Lessons at £6 per hour, Swimming lessons £4 each for half hour Music lessons £XXX per hour.

The committee.

New Jobs

Who does what on the committee can be found on the front page. Congratulations to Brian Gandy, after a spell as Secretary of the BCU Marathon Racing Committee he has now been elected Chairman.

TRIPS AND TOURS

Boxing Day Paddle

There will be the traditional Boxing Day paddle this year. Meet at Crookham Wharf at 10.30 am attired in fancy dress and go for a gentle paddle on the canal. Charles and Katie Hicks will kindly be providing mulled wine to warm you afterwards. The Mummings play will be at 12 noon.

Sloe Paddling

This trip started with us meeting at Oldham Wharf, well some of us, Jon Mudd broke down underneath the height barrier and needed us to push him to his parking space. Ha what a start. We got "onto" the water and proceeded up towards Greywell tunnel with Jon Mudd doing a seal launch off the side to christen his new boat. We all paddled off, well we thought all of us, but Chris Belton & Debbie Carpenter were still at Oldham getting on the water. While waiting we played tag. Chris & Debbie caught up and we paddled onto the tunnel. The water was getting clear as we headed towards the tunnel, with a school of fish and vegetation increased as we went along.

We got to the tunnel and stopped and chatted, turning around and paddling to Kings John Castle got out and had lunch in the sun (note for further trip there ain't no sloes between tunnel & Castle) here we met the Eales family motor boat. Lunch was a disparate experience from the meagre sandwich pack to the full-blown BBQ via the pot noodles. Two of our starting companions failed to make the rendezvous for lunch, having, apparently, better food to go to elsewhere.

Embarking, the novices at this game ask "What the hell do sloes look like?" to which we were told "When we have got to some you will be shown". "Memory has it that the far side of Warnborough bridge is the first occurrences of the black thorn." There was some on the towpath side, which were disregarded and a fair crop where the local's couldn't get at them on the non-towpath bank. Picking and stripping of bushes commenced. This year's crop being more prolific than last year it was easier to strip a branch rather than pick individual ones. To get to the high branches where there were more begging to be picked required the stabling

confluence of two Canadians and a certain acrobatic agility by Keith and myself.

Moving on, picking we paddled, we came to that part of the canal where Chris had spotted a large picking session on the towpath side. He put to shore, so to speak, to collect some more sloes while Keith and I decided to take a break and make a hot drink.

On the dredger, the fun started, but the matches Jon Mudd had got wet “Ha, I have to forget something each trip.” So a lighter was obtained from Pete Absolom but he was on the other side of the bank with Chris and the others collecting sloes. So I tied my piece of string to a pot and floated it across to Pete’s lighter but it got wet trying to get it to me. In the end we manage to dry it out to use it to light the little camping stove I brought with me (a meths Trangia) I started to boil water for drinks. The others had collected what they wanted and came across to the dredger to partake in the refreshments.

After a while it was decided that we make our way back to Odiham, where we had started. Keith and I decided to be towed back by the Eales family motorboat which was a lot of fun all round.

A lot of sloes had been picked, in fact a bumper crop and better than last years pickings. Well done to those who take part?

Lee

French Holiday – Summer 2003

There we were, arriving at our campsite after a wonderful drive through the most spectacular scenery of the Tarn region of France, deciding we had forgotten just how amazing the Tarn Gorge was, and how scarily steep the roads were down to the river. It was early afternoon, and the sundrenched riverside seemed deserted. The little shop where we had to check in was, of course, shut for siesta, and we thought we’d just relax by the car until they opened. So we got out of the air-conditioned cocoon ...WOW. This was not possible - England had been hot, - France on the way down had been a bit hotter, - but this was an oven, and we were here for two weeks!

The group took two days to arrive, and all agreed that the campsite was a good one – showers and loos cleaner than most we had encountered– a pony-tailed monsieur in Marigolds was on cleaning duty, it seemed, day and night. We tried to adjust to the heat – sitting on the beach in the shade by the river was a good idea, cooling off in the water even better, as was driving about in air-conditioned cars to beauty

spots and cool caverns. Our visit to a vulture colony was pretty warm, though, but the little bar selling ice creams etc. helped cool us down. The river was a bit low for canoeing in the upper reaches, but we did manage some excellent and scenic trips – the further down river we went, the higher the water was, and a few Grade 2 and 3 rapids added interest. Any cycling we did had to be in the early morning before the heat got going, but we managed one or two trips along the valley. We had some memorable evening meals – one in particular was at a restaurant where we sat outside to enjoy the evening, only to realise we were being invaded by flying ants. They swarmed everywhere, hitting the faces of the waitresses; crawling up the trellis; some being eaten by a large toad who couldn’t believe his luck; eventually we all had to go inside with the doors and windows closed tightly. Apparently this is an annual occurrence, one night in the year, - and we had to pick it!

One day, we were on the beach and noticed with relief a huge thundercloud in the sky – rain at last – only it wasn’t cloud, it was smoke. The forest fires raged for five days on the plateau above the river, - 600 firemen, 80 fire engines from all over France, spotter planes, aircraft which scooped water from a lake to dump on the flames, helicopters which gathered water from the river in huge buckets - we saw it all, and breathed the smoke and watched the ash falling on our tents and caravans! Our campsite was on alert, but we did not have to leave – others further down the river had to abandon their campsites. When it was all over, we were so sad to see the blackened acres of woodland and to realise how close the fire had come to wiping out some villages – the fire fighters had worked unbelievably hard and earned the admiration and respect of everyone who witnessed the “incendie”.

Despite all that, and some car problems (the Cox family nearly didn’t get there at all, and Debbie and Charles got to know the local garage rather well) we did have an excellent time with good canoeing, wonderful scenery and great company. Thank you Colin, Lynn and Allan Cox, Debbie Carpenter, Chris Belton, Tony and Glenna Miller with nephew Peter, Mike and Mary Simpson, and some interesting Belgians with a hammock and a taste for sub-aqua and gliding.

Why not come with us next time – not sure yet where we’re going, but probably further North, possibly to Beaurainville on the river Canche in Nord Pas de Calais, just over an hour from the ferry port and about 20K inland from the beaches of Le Touquet.. Charles & Katie Hicks

The Exe Descent

(Sustained by Ginger Cake.)

The River Exe is not normally on our White Water list of rivers because access is not easy and the number of features to play on are not numerous. But the Exe Descent, now in its 35th year, is a classic. Starting at Tiverton is 19 miles long with 9 weirs to negotiate enroute to the centre of Exeter. Debbie Carpenter a supporter of this trip from her links with Windsor CC knew the area well and the support crews access points and Chris Belton is a veteran himself of this paddle although X years ago!

We arrived with what I thought plenty of time spare i.e. at least 1 hour to my start time in the Wavehopper class. No sooner had we parked and chatted to people we know from the racing circuit when the Tannoy announced that scrutineering and check-in would be closing in 30 minutes, oops! Without time for a tempting bacon butty from the back of a horse box I changed, checked in and got a sticker for having a buoyancy aid, helmet and buoyancy bags.

We hiked across a field to the boat park and the start area. "Would you like some cake?" Chris called as we put the boat down and eyed up the other competitors. Now Ginger cake I have a weakness for and I felt in need of some more carbohydrates "Yes please" I said.

A large slab of cake appeared "Help yourself but leave some for Debbie and I".

While we were waiting for the start in the field we were adjacent to the first obstacle which was a set of Salmon steps similar to those on the river Barle for those familiar with that river. Beside these steps is a slope of 30 degrees which can be paddled apparently in higher water levels so the steps were the preferred route, but in a racing boat? "You'll be fine in that

boat" said Chris "but try and avoid the collisions, the start is only 200 metres upstream!" Now I am quite quick off the mark in Marathon racing with the sprint for the lead pack but in a plastic Wavehopper this was unknown. The first batch of racers set off and I could see what Chris meant. With a fair bit of 'argy bargy' most of them made the steps without getting baulked, capsized or colliding with each other and losing their paddles. So what was my plan? Try and get to the front of my group of some 20 boats and get a clear run of the steps in a boat that I had only previously paddled 4 miles along the canal in!

I launched and needed a bit of assistance with a dry and tight spray deck that had not seen use for a few years by Liz Murnaghan, whose boat I had borrowed. Bolstered by having practiced a roll at the pool a few weeks earlier I thought I was ready for anything! Jostling for position amongst the lightweight WWR (White Water Racers) made of carbon Kevlar and other Wavehoppers we were off and all aiming for the Salmon steps 200 metres ahead! Clearly the lighter boats got there first and I arrived with two other

Wavehoppers beside me when I hesitated as a boat was broadside, upside down and it's previous occupant frantically trying to get the boat straight, retrieve his paddle and avoid the boats racing past him. I chose to avoid this melee by taking a route beside the steps hoping not to run aground as some K2's had previously. Half way down 'graunch' I stopped and with hands and paddles I worked the boat left towards the steps behind the still stuck boat. Nearly capsizing myself (a BIG support stroke with wings!) I bounced down the steps and on down the river 'fairly' pleased with myself but what was next?

Well a fairly flat section with perhaps 1 knot of current a few small rapids and only 8 more weirs. Now a WWR does not have a rudder for fairly obvious reasons and steering is achieved by edging and paddling the boat accordingly. Even so the boat is not very manoeuvrable and after a few miles I experienced just this. Rounding a bend in the river there was a narrow section and the only navigable route was beside a tree with, I could see in the distance, and overhanging branch about a foot off of the water. Ahead of me was a touring plastic K2 that I was catching up with. Half way down this section the K2 slewed sideways across the stream completely blocking the route. I had committed myself by then and could not stop, break out or steer around this obstacle. The only choice that I had was to aim for the line of least resistance i.e. the lowest section of the boat being the stern with the hope of running over it or turning the boat out of the way. Unbeknown to me there was a metal cleat on the stern and the Wavehopper snagged nicely on this and I was not going anywhere fast. This action did turn the other boat which freed itself and we travelled together towards, you have guessed it, the overhanging branch!

What we teach everybody entering the wonderful world of moving water is to hug the rocks and do not hang on to trees. Well I had no choice but to fend myself off the other boat and shield myself from the branch and a capsize was inevitable. Clearly not able to roll up under the branch out I came into about 3 feet of water and I made for the bank with paddle and boat intact. I emptied out, re-launched and headed off again downstream none the worse for wear. Camaraderie seems to be the name of the game in these races because everybody who passed me while getting myself sorted out called out "Are you OK?". I soon caught up with the mischievous boat and we acknowledged each other, they apologised but, hey, that's racing!

I got more used to the Wavehopper as the miles past by. It handled the drops and weirs with ease and I caught up with and chatted, as I do, with some of the other competitors.

One feature Debbie and Chris warned me about was approaching and I took their advice but where was it? I saw them on the bank and made for them for a drink re-fill. I was greeted with the comment "The weir here was washed away a few years ago". I was also greeted with some more of Chris's Ginger cake which is sticky and took some

determined swallowing and a drink to get down but I needed the energy top up. "See you later" and onward I paddled.

I was about halfway by now and with no real signs of wear and tear, blisters etc and I was enjoying myself. The bigger weirs are nearer Exeter and as the boats approached them a marshal would point out the preferred route and safety boats or throw lines were clearly in attendance. That way for more tender boats and this way for more rugged boats such as the Wavehopper.

On one weir, I believe called the Flowerpots, I was directed river left. I bounced down some quite high drops past boils and nasty stoppers that I would not go near in my shorter White Water boat! As I cleared this obstacle I was greeted by a round of applause from a group on the bank and a cry "All the others went the other side!"

After this the river had very little flow but was deeper, wider and hard work. I picked off a few other boats in my class here who had passed me during my 'tree incident'. At last we entered Exeter suburbs with more spectators along the banks and then finally the very welcome finish sign.

A shower, hot soup, pasty and cakes for all the competitors was very welcome. Some people treat the Exe Descent as a race but it is clearly to me an achievement and a challenge as well as a race. To keep a racing boat from flooding, capsizing, getting broken up is quite enough as it is. I was glad I was in a boat tough enough to cope with these issues but it was heavy and slow in comparison to my usual racing boat.

My thanks go to Chris and Debbie for their support, same again next year?

Richard Somerset

(Richard came 7th in a time of 3hrs 03'50" Only 17mins behind the Wavehopper winner) Well done.

TV stars for a day

Those of you who are tuned in to Meridian TV are in for a real treat when you see some club members starring in a programme about the Basingstoke Canal. Charles Hicks got a phone call one day in October from a company making a programme for Meridian, asking if he could get together a group to be filmed canoeing – the next day! They had been let down by a man with hawks, so they were scraping the bottom of the barrel to find another activity immediately. They already had a thatcher, a mole-catcher, angora goats, and the John Pinkerton. So Charles rounded up a group of available canoeists, mainly pensioners, with Liz Murnaghan and little Matthew lowering the

average age considerably. The other members of the cast, apart from Charles and Katie, were Colin Cox, Julie Merriman, David Millett and Mike Simpson

It's not easy being stars of the small screen, you know – they said to pretend we were just out for a sociable potter about, chatting amongst ourselves. Try telling that to marathon paddlers – some of us were going flat out just to keep in touch with Charles in his K1, and Colin and Liz in a Canadian, - though of course they had Matthew to help.

We had to paddle towards a bridge, then go back and do it again while they filmed us going through the bridge, then do it again so that they could film us coming through the bridge, and again so that they could film us going away from the bridge. Each time, we had to remember the order we had been in, and the position in the canal.

Great fun, though, - two hours of filming, and we've been told our bit might last as much as three minutes in the programme! We were actually paid for our performance – a cheque for £70 has gone into the Club's account.

The programme will be in the Country Ways series, and called "The Basingstoke Canal in October". It will be shown next year, probably March, but they'll let us know when.

Katie Hicks

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

Leaves

*Up the river, off I go, 20,00 leaves in tow
If one more leaf sticks to my bow
That's it – I am quitting; right here right now!
Countless stops to clear them away
I can't wait for a leafless day*

Gavin Turrell (A top 200m sprinter)

View from the boathouse

That's so strange - a few weeks ago this place was alive with canoeists: young, old, playboaters, canadian canoeists, marathon paddlers.

That's really puzzling - this place is suddenly almost deserted. It is so quiet around here. I come along on a beautiful, warm, sunny, still

day and, apart from marathon paddlers, there is nobody here. Nobody making use of the facilities Mytchett has to offer. You wouldn't think we now had toilets, showers and changing facilities to use. And all these boats going spare for six months of the year.

Winter paddling can be really very beautiful. Oh, it might seem a bit cold at times and sure, it can be cold in the rain. But that's only when you are thinking about it or stood shivering on the bank. If you are competent in your boat and can find a friend or two, come on out. Get moving and you will be warm in no time at all. Put a cag on to keep the wind off and most times after a little while you will feel too warm. Wear a woolly hat, wear poggies if you suffer from cold hands.

Come and do the Hare & Hounds! OK, OK, I won't go on about that. It's just that I reckon that most of you would enjoy it, feel exhilarated and pleased with yourself at the finish.

I tell you what. Come and have a go one week-end before Christmas. Then come and paddle at the BOXING DAY event. If you want to know more come and see an old hand. It might be blistered, shrivelled from immersion in water and chapped with cold. But it will be able to give you good advice, including what cream to put on when you get home - I jest, of course.

Other wise, have an enjoyable Christmas, put your feet up and I will see you in April. Will that be after Easter, or before?

Where have all the paddlers gone?

Where have all the young girls gone?
Boathouse is empty now,
Where have all the young girls gone?
Such a short while ago.
Where have all the young girls gone?
Not at Mytchett ev'ry one
Oh, when will you ever learn?
Oh, when will you ever learn?

Where have all the young men gone?
Our canal is empty now,
Where have all the young men gone?
Such a short while ago.
Where have all the young men gone?
Playing at computer games?
Oh, when will you ever learn?
Oh, when will you ever learn?

Where have all the paddlers gone?
Can't see them passing,
Where have all the paddlers gone?
Such a short while ago.
Where have all the paddlers gone?
Claimed by Winter ev'ry one
Oh, when will you ever learn?
Oh, when will you ever learn?

Where have the racing paddlers gone?
They weren't long passing,
Where have the racing paddlers gone?
Speeding along
Where have the racing paddlers gone?
Battling rain and Autumn leaves
Oh, when will you ever learn?
Oh, when will you ever learn?

With the sincerest apology to Pete Seeger
Brian Gandy

Special Christmas Quiz

You May Be a Paddler If .

-you can't drive over a bridge without looking for water under it

-you love it when it rains during the week

-you wash hang whilst driving on the M3

-you lean to the right whilst turning left on your bicycle

-you attempt a slap support whilst skateboarding

-you no longer find a shirt and tie uncomfortable as both are more tolerable than dry cag neck seals

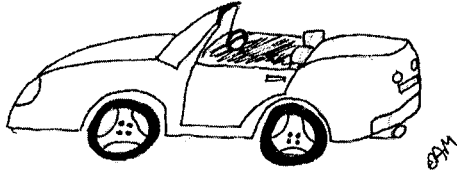
-you are fascinated by the recirculation of water in the sink when you turn the tap on full blast

-you pay attention to adverts mentioning wings

-you find yourself kicking the clutch pedal when driving instead of using the steering wheel

-you approach a car parking space at a 45 degree angle, crash into the kerb, leap out and attempt to sling the car over your shoulder.

Pinched from the Banbury website. If you don't understand all the activities then you are probably not a racing paddler. Talk to one of the flatwater team and they will be pleased to find you a stable boat for you to learn how.



Paddler: "It's a super little car, but where do I put my boat?"
 Salesman: "On your other car, Sir."

Polo and Pool

The pool sessions have been popular and well attended throughout the year, and hopefully will be through 2004!

*Just to add to the **care/safety** of the pool, can all those that attend, including spectators, please remove your outdoors shoes (bring a clean spare pair of most kind of foot ware). Also can all individuals who bring their own kayak or canoe, make sure that it is clean inside and out, with no loose material within the cockpit.*

There are facilities to clean boats outside the pool area.

Keith Ambrose
 Pool Co-ordinator

If you want to improve your polo skills over the Christmas holidays then just find a ball. A size 4 football is best but any ball will do. Find a plastic bag to protect your bottom from the damp and go outside to a wall free from lots of windows. Sit on the ground about 3m away from the wall and practice throwing and catching the ball against the wall. Don't just use your "Good" hand and also vary the angle at which you sit to the wall and the height of the throw. When you get good at 3m then increase the distance.
 Liz Murnaghan

Coaching

Do you remember those long hot days of summer? Do you remember those balmy evening when the canal was like a warm bath (OK so I exaggerate a bit) and learning to paddle seemed like a really good idea? Well quite a few adults who had been watching their children have all the fun certainly thought so. It was during the Adults 1 star courses in the summer that a gap appeared in the Club's training provision. Some people wished to take the Placid Water 1 star test opposed to the 1 star Closed cockpit test we offered. I couldn't test for it and asking around no-one else in the Club could either. I did find that lots of paddlers were interested in Placid water star tests though. By October I had been given a very short list of people who could test for 3 star Placid Water. Kevin Dennis, Chair of the BCU Southern region and Pangborne CC had the

relevant piece of paper and was willing to test us. "Choose a weekend before Christmas" he said. What with marathon races, white water trips, sea trips and other coaching commitments it was 13th Dec before we could all get together. How close to Christmas do you want?

We diligently studied the syllabus. Draw strokes, scull for support and high support strokes in a K1?? It says "fast touring boat with a rudder" so we can use the Hobby. And you don't have to use "Wings" either. Visible relief all round, but I couldn't answer "How do you do an X rescue in an open cockpit boat?"

Saturday 13th December dawned wet and warm (for December) and marathon paddlers could be found struggling into wetsuits and dry cags. All the stable boats came out and quite a few ditched "Wings" for asymmetric blades. Some of the skills like forward paddling and washing hanging came easily, but when it came to reversing a figure of 8 course we struggled. ("Hello trees!"). The wet stuff we saved for the end.

Richard Somerset, Mike Simpson, Brain Biffen, Chris Absolom, Paul Massam, Paul Batchelor, Brian Gandy and yours truly all passed their 3 star Placid Water test. Congratulations!

If you want to take your 1 or 2 star Placid Water test then we now have people to test you. And if you want to know "How do you do an X rescue in an open cockpit boat?" we can do that too, though we might just suggest you swim to the side!

Liz Murnaghan

Marathon

The new season started in September with a race at Pangbourne. It was very well attended, with over 50 paddlers in Div9 they ran out of numbers. The club had some good results though with Tyson just having the edge over Chris in the sprint finish in Div 8. Pete Absolom finished 4th in Div 7. Paul Batchelor and Paul Massam did well for points in Div 5/6.

The Southern Region manages to have races on 3 consecutive weekends in September so it is always hard to field a full team for the "middle" weekend at Longridge Scout Centre (Marlow). Peter Wigg joined Debbie for a good result in Div 9 K2. Tyson had his second win in Div8. Chris Absolom was away but his Dad, Pete managed to continue family tradition and collect a pot for fastest Veteran in Div7. Liz and Charles came 3rd in Div 7/8. We showed the other clubs how to lunch in style. Carol Simons and Margaret Absolom brought a magnificent spread which we enjoyed on the picnic tables. We could not re-create the same ambience in the cramped conditions at Henley though the pot collecting continued with Tyson and Chris a second in Div 7/8 and Pete a second in Div 7.

The following weekend was the Hasler finals at Reading. The Club had not qualified this year but under the new rules if you had raced 3 times you could go anyway. Tyson and Chris went and came second, losing to the same pair that had beaten them the previous weekend. Debbie Carpenter and Tina Murray also raced together in Div 9K2.

There was then a break for a few weeks before Windsor and Banbury. Windsor was very well attended by clubs from out of the region and the conditions very choppy. Despite the stiff opposition, Tyson and Chris won Div7/8, Paul Massam came 4th in Div6. Pete Absolom had been promoted to Div 6 and he raced well to 6th place. Brian Gandy and Charles Hicks scored well in Div 7. Tina Murray and Debbie Carpenter were 4th in Div 9.

Banbury was the last race before the winter break. Tyson and Chris are used to the instructions "Win, but slowly", with 3 club boats in the race it was important for our total points that they did this. Banbury's race is held on the Oxford canal and is the only race which makes the Basingstoke Canal look spacious. Div 5 and 6 singles started together so Richard (5) and Pete (6) had a good race which resulted in Pete winning Div 6. With 14 boats in Div 7/8 and only space for 4 across the start it was going to be hectic, especially with parked barges just a few metres beyond the start line. Tyson and Chris started the race by reversing to avoid hitting a K2 going across their bows, meanwhile Charles and Liz got spun into the side of a barge. Tyson and Chris shot past, they slowed after the turn but not enough for Brian and Lis to be inside the 15% time window. Brian was not happy. A few weeks later we heard that Chris

and Tyson have been promoted to Div 6. Well done lads, about time too!

The club are currently lying in 3rd place in the region with Wokingham a surprise 4th and not far behind. This is due to not only the good performances mentioned above but also to all the others who have paddled for the club. Notably Alan and Lis Coleman, Martin Dyke, Jonathan Johns and Richard Somerset. We need to continue to turn out in force for the summer Hasler races to book our spot at the finals. Meanwhile we can concentrate on getting some serious mileage in over the winter and the longer races, Watersides, Thamesides and Devizes to Westminster!

Liz Murnaghan



Hare and Hounds Results

Sept 2003

1 st Liz Murnaghan	K1	61.00	10
2 nd Lis Coleman	Hobby	65.00	9
3 rd Paul Massam	K1	57.20	8
4 th Paul Batchelor	K1	52.20	7
5 th Tina Murrey	K1	72.25	6
6 th Tyson Simmons & Chris Absolom	K2	54.10	5
7 th Richard Somerset	K1	55.20	4
8 th Brian Gandy	K1	61.40	3
9 th Pete Absolom	K1	57.50	2

October 2003

1 st Alan Coleman	K1	66.20	10
2 nd Paul Massam	K1	57.50	9
3 rd Richard Somerset	K1	56.15	8
4 th Tyson Simmons & Chris Absolom	K2	56.00	7
5 th Brian Gandy & Lis Coleman	K2	61.40	6
6 th Pete Absolom	K1	54.10	5
7 th Liz Murnaghan	K1	68.40	4
8 th Tina Murrey	K1	77.35	3

November 2003

1 st Liz Murnaghan	Hobby	63.40	10
2 nd Alan Coleman	Laance	66.55	9
3 rd Tyson Simmons & Chris Absolom	K2	55.25	8
4 th Paul Massam	K1	58.40	7
5 th Paul Batchelor & Tim Middlehurst	K2	51.25	V
6 th Brian Gandy & Lis Coleman	K2	62.00	6
7 th Pete Absolom	K1	61.25	5
8 th Martin Dyke	K1	69.25	4
9 th Richard Somerset	K1	58.30	3

A few dates for the calendar.

		NOTE. Events suitable for young people are marked with a *.
Dec03	PP	
20th	*	Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
26th	*	Fancy Dress Paddle at Crookham Wharf See inside for details
Jan04		
4th		Frank Luzmore K2 Contact Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766
11th	*	Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
17th	*	Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
25th	*	Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
Feb04		
8th	*	Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
14th	*	Paddlepower Polo Event Contact Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
15 th		Waterside A Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
21st	*	Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
21st	*	Paddlepower Polo Event Contact Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
22nd		Thameside 1 Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
22nd	*	Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
28th	*	Paddlepower Polo Event Contact Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
29th		Waterside B Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
Mar04		
7th		Thameside 2 Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
14th		Waterside C Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
14th	*	Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
20th	*	Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
28th		Waterside C Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
28th	*	Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579

Following a recommendation from the BCU we must draw your attention to the following statement: “Canoeing and Kayaking are “Assumed risk”- “Water contact sports””

EDITOR'S BIT

Apologies for promising lots of rain in the last issue, we are still waiting for it to arrive. The white water paddlers are getting withdrawal symptoms after a summer diet of weirs which is still the only way to get their fix at the moment. May Christmas bring rain to fill up our rivers as well as the new kit to pose in. The racers don't like it too cold either, it freezes the canal! For new year you can all resolve to send something for Waterfront to the Editor, details below. With Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Please forward articles to:-
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 The closing date for issue 97. is 1st Feb 2004