



Waterfront

Issue108

Dec06

Oi! Tell the family don't just keep me to your self!



From the Chair...

Hello Everyone,

After 6 years of nagging the previous Chairmen to pen something from "From the Chair", the boot is now firmly on the other foot and I've found that the deadline comes round quickly!

Firstly I'd like to thank all the adults and young people who have given up their time this year to run activities for the canoe club, we couldn't provide such a diverse range of events if it wasn't for you. Paddlers have been able to try out many craft from playboats to racing boats and anything in-between, trips to moving water, sea and surf, competition in slalom, marathon, WWR, polo and bell boats all whilst sustained by barbeque food and cakes. Our Clubmark presentation with local MP, James Arbuthnot, was covered in local papers and our Youthfest team photos filled Canoe Focus. Well Done!

The recent AGM was a chance to celebrate our successes, and also to hear more about the future of the canal from Surrey and Hants Canal Society Chairman, Peter Redway. The good news is that Surrey County council have decided that it will be too expensive to shut the canal. However, the funding crisis has not gone away and this will affect the maintenance and management of the canal.

The past few years have seen great changes for the club. We now have much better facilities than ever before. There is still room for improvement in those facilities and also in the quality of the boat stock and frequency of use. Paddling is not just about summery Tuesday evenings. In the race for excellence there is no finishing line!

I look forward to seeing you on the water soon.

Liz

Chairman BCCC

Pedants corner

The first lady chairman in the club's history has thrown up the dilemma "What do we call the Chair~~man~~ now?" I am assured by my old English teacher that "Madam Chairman" is the correct feminine form of "Chairman". He was a contemporary of Mrs Thatcher at Oxford University and Madam Chairman was the term used to address her when she was running the Oxford Union. (And any comparisons between me and Mrs T can stop now!) Some members of the committee have already noted that Madam Chairman can be abbreviated to "Mad Chair" and in some circumstances this may be more appropriate.

Liz

This 'From the Chair' comes to you completely nag free. Thanks Liz - Ed.

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THE NEW COMMITTEE

Madame Chairman
Liz Murnaghan

Secretary
Jon Mudd

Treasurer
Dave Horner

Committee Members
Brian Biffin
Charles Hicks
Paul Jeffs
Tracey Rees-Clark
Merry Williams

News

Apology

There was a mistake with one of the club's awards at the AGM. The Hare & Hounds Canadian award, the Canadian Challenge, went to Brian and Anne Biffin when it should have gone to Chris and Pete Absolom.

Wildwater Racing

Congratulations to Sarah Murnaghan who was runner up in the U10 girls class of the Perception Wavehopper Challenge for the 2006 season.

Star tests

Congratulations to all the following who have passed their 3 Star Kayak Test Awards: Mark Lee, Ben Lee, Steven Rhys Clark, Aiden Bell and from the summer Guy Pepper.

The secret is out

At last it has been possible to find out why marathon paddlers are always running to the loo. Found in the cereal aisle of the local supermarket a brown box "New Kelloggs All-Bran Bran Flakes Chocolate" and the slogan on the back of the packet reads "Welcome to the DARK SIDE".

A roll of toilet paper for all Flat water types in Darth Vader suits on Boxing day. Ed.

Club Kit

Last minute Christmas shopping? Choose from Sweatshirts £13 adults/£10 Kids, Hoodies £16 adults/£13 kids and Fleece £19 adults /£14 kids. All embroidered with the club logo liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com

Prize winner

Congratulations to Sarah Murnaghan who won the BCU 2006 Christmas Card competition Competition. There is a copy of it online on the BCU website, search "Christmas card" is the easiest way to find it.

Forthcoming Events

Trips 2007

We are putting together a program of trips both moving water and 'picnic' for 2007 but would like to know who would participate on them.

Notification of trips will be listed in Waterfront, distributed by e-mail and listed on the web site. To register to receive e-mail notifications of trips please drop a note to that effect to:

Keith Ambrose keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com 01252 523579

Richard Somerset richard.somerset@ntlworld.com 01252 683584

Too many trip organisers (volunteers please note!) have organised trips in the past to find they are not always well supported. In order for us to plan trips that the membership would like to participate in please indicate your preference to the following:

Local picnic trips, Local moving water trips, Weekend moving water trips, Saturday, Sunday or Bank holidays. If you have a favorite stretch of river you have paddled or would like to paddle please let us know.

Send you answers to these questions to either Keith or Richard as above.

Fancy the Dart or Usk then contact Merry.

For Local trips to weirs and Nene Whitewater Centre, contact Keith Ambrose.

Boxing Day Paddle

Don't forget the Boxing Day paddle. This is allegedly a fancy dress occasion.

Can you outdo the Biffins this year?

Meet at Crookham Wharf car park at 10.30 ish for a short paddle eased along by mulled wine and mince pies. You can follow up with the Mummings Play outside the George & Lobster pub at noon.

If you can't manage full fancy dress a silly hat is considered acceptable.

New Year!

(For those of you reading in black and white the following line is red, blue and green. Ed.)

New Years Eve

All club members are welcome to drop into the Biffins to see in the New Year with an American Supper and fireworks.

Please email

Brian.biffin@gmail.com

or call us on 01252 616692 if you would like to come along.

Anne and Brian

BCCC Quiz Night – 28 April 2007

Resurrected by popular demand

This is a general knowledge quiz for teams of six people. The cost is £25 per team.

We provide questions on a range of subjects: we leave you to give us the answers (well, hopefully).

We also provide snacks and nibbles: you bring drinks of your own choice with you.

All profits will go towards purchasing a new Canadian and other equipment for the club.

The quiz is open to anyone, not just to club members and there are three aims:

- For you and your friends to have an enjoyable evening;
- For the club to raise some funds;
- For us to fill the hall with 120 competitors, as we used to do at all our quizzes.

Please get a team together from your friends, neighbours, work colleagues or family. Perhaps raise two teams for a friendly head to head. An entry form can be obtained from Brian Gandy 01252 622630 / Lee Matthews 07809628699 or from the BC3 website.

And For The ‘Ladies’

I'm running some "Coffee mornings". The plan is to ignore housework for the morning. After dropping the kids at school bring your flask of coffee and white water kit round to my house about 9.30ish and we will go and play on the moving water at a local weir (usually Shepperton) for an hour or so. Nothing fancy, just breaking in & out, and ferrygliding, a chance to learn or brush up your skills on moving water without being shown up by the kids.

The next "coffee mornings" will be 12th Jan and 9th Feb.

Let me know if you want to come.

Liz.

Read All About It - BCCC Out and About

North Devon – Taw & Torridge Trip 25 & 26 November 2006

Weekend Trip – Lee Mathews; Brian & Anne Biffin; Paul Jeffs; Jesse McKenzie; Alli Benton-Jones; Perry Tatman (me)

Day 1: They often say that: "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry," this weekend was like that. Alli & I were being driven to the rendezvous point by her husband Rob. Along the A377 from Barnstaple, it was raining quite hard. As we looked out at the swollen Taw there were quite a few sharp intakes of breath-as this was to be my first trip on moving water with an open canoe! It was very fast flowing in places, and too high at the bridges. We had almost resigned ourselves to the fact that the trip would be cancelled before it even started.

We finally met up with the rest of the group at Umberleigh. You can see by the first trip picture (See website) just how high the water was!!! After a cup of tea and a think, Brian remembered a place to put in further downstream, so we would avoid the bridges.

A short trip down the road brought us to a lane close to the river. In fact it was little too close, as the field adjoining the river had flooded and so had the road! So the magnificent 7 finally set off, paddling nearly a kilometre along the road before breaking out through a hedge, out into the flooded field and the river beyond.

The flooding made the river hard to read and provided us with all sorts of eddies, boils, whirlpools and rippling waters. A fast moving S-bend caught Alli and me out, driving us into some trees. Meanwhile Jesse got a ducking, but Paul was at hand to help him while Lee chased after his kayak in the Caption.

A few more miles paddling brought us to Barnstaple leisure centre, and our transport. We all met up that evening at the Cavalier Pub in Great Torrington for a hearty meal and a well-deserved drink.

Day 1 distance travelled: **4.12 miles**

Day 2: More rain during the night. We all met up at the Puffing Billy near Great Torrington and wandered down the Tarka trail to view the Torridge and assess the weir that was not too far from the start. The weir was too fierce for anyone to attempt, so a short portage had to be planned for.

Once on the other side of the weir we set off again at a steady pace. The water had dropped considerably overnight and made reading the river behaviour more easy. We practiced breaking in, breaking out and reverse ferry gliding as we worked our way down the Torridge.

A much longer run this day, that was quite leisurely towards the end. We had to paddle steadily to make it to the planned egress point before the turning tide made our exit strategy difficult. We finally arrived at a point just on the outskirts of Bideford, cleaning the mud off the canoes and kayaks before packing up to head home.

Day 2 distance travelled: **7.77 miles**

A very enjoyable weekend that turned disaster into triumph..... Hurrah!!!!

The Ross Warland Canal Challenge

The Ross Warland is a 26 mile memorial race from Oxford to Banbury Canoe Club. But this year the route was slightly different because a section of the canal was being drained for maintenance work. So it was a 20 mile race which we did in 2 stages as a K2 relay. There were 6 portages in each 10 mile leg.

Naomi and I were racing the 2nd leg of the relay. We were paired up with two Banbury girls; Kathryn Stone and Rachel Murphy who were doing the 1st leg from the Canoe Club to Aynho Lock. We had to go all the way back. Our competition from BCCC was our dad and Debbie Carpenter (1st leg) and Richard Somerset and John Mudd (2nd leg).

At the lock we had to wait ages until any teams came. Annoyingly Debbie and our Dad came in before Kathryn and Rachael who had set off first. Then they arrived. After quickly swapping over the number board (the baton), we were off. The first portage was a run, but very hard as it was uphill. Then we saw Richard and John!

We were catching them up!

At the Banbury portage, through the town centre we overtook them, running. YAY!!!

After that we knew most of the route as we had done it at the Banbury club marathon. We overtook some other people and were greeted at the club by the smell of bacon butties.

Our time with Kathryn and Rachel was **4.02.26** (5th) and the BCCC team's was **3.32.53** (4th) but mine and Naomi's single leg was faster than Richard and John's and our dad and Debbie's single legs ☺.

I hope that next year we can pair up again like that; it was really good, especially overtaking Richard and John on the Banbury portage!

By

Naomi + Isobel Smith

The Annual Sloe paddle 2006

When is a sloe paddle not a sloe paddle?

[A] When you go fast.

[C] When you don't pick any sloes.

[B] When no one turns up.

[D] When there are no sloes to pick.

*place a tick next to the right answer.

We got up in plenty of time and were relieved to see that the weather was defying the forecast by not raining. Having breakfasted and assembled our kit and picnic we went out to load the boats. The man over the road was attacking his garage door with what looked like a rolling pin.

We got the boats out of the back garden and started to sort out the roof bars and straps. The man over the road was attacking his garage door with what looked like a steak hammer.

We got the boats on to the car roof and secured them as prescribed by all good coaches and training manuals. The man over the road was attacking his garage door with what looked like a carving knife.

We were ready a bit early and had become quite curious about the erratic behaviour of our normally sane neighbour. We crossed the road and asked if everything was OK. Turns out the lock on his garage door was broken and he needed to get inside to access his tools so he could use them to fix the lock (you know the song about the bucket with a hole in it). Well always the good Samaritan and being unable to resist a challenge Dave offered to help. He got out our crowbar and joined in the attack but the door resisted. Several tools later and still no success we were late and so we set off leaving our angle grinder, hammer drill and a selection of drill bits across the road.

We arrived just as the other two boats were about to give up and leave due to lack of participants. (If you ticked [B] score 2 points.) The issue was compounded by the fact that due to a bumper crop of just about everything this year nobody needed any more hedgerow fruit. Well the weather was fine and we had a picnic to eat so we decided that we would do the round trip to the end of the canal and back with the traditional picnic at the castle for lunch but miss out the sloe picking on the way back. (If you ticked [C] score 5 points.)

We saw a few sloes on route (No points if you ticked [D].) and, following lots of hot air and exercise (yes Hot Air) we reached the castle 5 minutes after it started raining. Well when I say rain.... I got to thinking that a Canadian canoe would make quite a good rain gauge. We ate our picnic under the trees, spouted some more hot air and then made a dash back to the cars. (If you ticked [A] score 5 points.)

So how did you do? Have an extra 15 points if you ticked [A],[B]&[C].

PS in case you're wondering, the garage door was open by the time we got back. Ed.

The Barle

Day 1 - Tarr Steps to Dulverton

After waking up at an Anti-social hour of 6 in the morning I was barely awake when I clambered into the Biffo Bus on the way to my first “true” moving water trip. To start of with there was just Lee, Brian and me in the van but we soon gained a member called Chris, and so we set off as a merry bunch down to Somerset but not before stopping off at Cargate service station so the team could wake up with breakfast and a nice cup of coffee.

After that we headed down to the Barle stopping off at Marsh Bridge (near our B&B) to check the water level. We shot up a hill no car should be able to climb much less the Biffo bus, but I was proved wrong (a theme that would continue though the weekend) and we arrived at our starting point. As Brian, Dave and Mike went off to drop cars off at the finish, Lee, Dan, Chris, Josh and myself sat down to chat after being amused by a Ford getting stuck in the ford at Tarr Steps. Then a DofE group went past with half their kit clipped on to their bags. The others turned up, and we were off.

The grade 3 trees were out in force on the first days paddle. Lee managed to sink his boat. (We never could figure out why he didn't wear a spray deck). The evening meal was a good one - the pub [The Anchor in Exebridge] was nice and we even got a visit from the town drunk at no extra cost.

Day 2 - Marsh Bridge to Exebridge

On the second day we had lots of entertainment from safety lines flying into trees, to comments on how I sat in the kayak. We went down some more weirs and Lee maintained his reputation for sinking and capsized on a small weir. We went down the salmon steps several times, where Josh B managed to capsize the caption after going down the steps sideways. Later in the day we had little more luck when Josh B and I shot the flume in the caption and both decided to turn in different directions: net result we hit a tree on the opposite bank at roughly 20mph nose first but still remained topside.

Finally, when we got to the end of our merry trip down the Barle, I was baptised in the river by Mike, however I didn't give up trying to pull him into the river until Josh B tried to stop me landing, by sinking my club boat then pushing it out into the flow, then watched me walk up to the bank. He realised I wasn't going in to get the boat (earlier Lee had informed us of the new idea of charging for and damage done to club property not on club trips). Mike ran in and saved the boat before it got to Exeter. Anyway, it was a quick change, which involved the Bevan's dressing gown and on the road home again.

A quick stop at Cargate and we were off again hitting a traffic jam. The AA traffic thingamabob on my phone couldn't find the A road we were on so we were stuck there for at least half an hour but the traffic cleared just as it started and we were soon back in Fleet.

A big thank you to Mike for organising the trip, and to Brian for taking me along.

Josh M

The Exe Descent and some true tales from the Somerset House

For the Somerset's, it all started with a kiss and a “boogie on down” in a night-club too many years ago to remember. He was in his fawn flares with a thick black beard; she was in a little red number, plastered in the forerunner to fake tan. (He interjected – “I woke up the next day with orange hands”). Here we all were many years later in a car sharing stories and a trip down to the Exe with the happy couple. Domestic Harmony was at its peak on this occasion with a yes dear; no dear; of course dear and I think you are quite right dear. After five years of ‘walking out’ after that blissful nightclub night when their eyes met, Pauline had finally bought glasses and then picked up the courage, understanding and financial realisation that she had to buy her own wedding ring. 23years of married life had now passed.

Mrs. S and Debbie Carpenter had agreed to act as our “Exe Descent Support Crew”; a role that has a very specific job description and needs tender attention. Most tender and attentive they were. We were later to be joined at the event by Liz M, Pete Absolum and Peter Wigg.

Pick up was at 6.00 a.m. and happened a little late. This was apparently Richard's fault. It was a bad start, as Pauline had not had time for a cup of tea. Weather wise, it was the first frost of the winter and it was feeling decidedly chilly in the car. We got close to a few service stations and were allowed a brief comfort break (and comfort break only) in a Little Chef. The hopeful cup of tea would only happen if two opposing magnets, Richard's hand and his wallet, were to meet. This was highly unlikely from Pauline's experience. He remained firmly sat in the car, far away from any temptation or requests. We braved the patron only toilets past the gauntlet of five Little Chef staff in an empty Café! We eventually arrived far too early at our destination - it was noted that we could have started later; “she” could have had that cup of tea.

So to the Exe Descent; registration, bacon sarnies and finally that CUP OF TEA! - (20p) – Richard’s knowledge for a distant bargain was why we had become so dehydrated! Paddling crews met and there was a sharing of the life stories and the history of the many pre-bruised and patched up boats. Most had seen better days and a few did not know it but this would be their final chapter! The fit, not so fit, and even less fit paddlers shared their strategies and this done, it was off to the start. One brand new sparkling, sleek K2 sat along side the older all knowing and ageing, more rounded, salty characters as they all waited for the off. A quick comfort break along the electric fences by the hedges - First Aid crews with scalpels at the ready just in case there was a coming together! It was then on to the water avoiding the copious cow pats.

Liz and Pete started first in a not so trusty K2 (Don Quixotes horse had more form). They got down the first weir with a touch of side and a wetting but were only to last a few miles with a destroyed and re-arranged rudder, gashed legs and one broken toe. Everything was eventually pointing North but their trusty steed was rescued from the watery grave and will be appearing in “Panto” at the Aldershot Lido in the New Year!

Richard and I were in the plastic Wavehopper class and like many others fought through the carnage of the start and the immediate first weir. I plodded on with Richard steaming ahead towards the front runners. It was a surprise to see him start a race the right way up! (I may live to regret that comment!). We battled on past broken hearts and broken boats; one with 3 feet of nose swaying in the waves; true freestyle presentation, vertical in the water – the rest of the boat and hopefully not paddlers (there was no time to check!) submerged in the deep. Later we saw a £1000 K1 Alpha split in three at the nose. Thank goodness for Plastic!

I suppose the Exe decent is a bit like marriage; a happy, nervous, excited, dizzy and hopeful start. Some calm waters, some rough waters, the weirs around the corner, the rapids you survive, the happy bits where all is going well, some helpful and friendly people along the way, some falling outs and some getting back together. At the end of the day and 19 miles later we had survived – just - and were racing towards the finish. My flat-water speed and fitness had just been about up to the job but I’d had my moments and fallen out twice. The first swim was below a weir on a sharp bend pinned under an overhanging tree, with the second and most interesting event paddling angled down a weir, sideways into a stopper with winged paddles for support at the bottom of another 20 foot precipice. There was little time to look when arriving at the top of most weirs and I learnt the lesson and adage that it’s best to look carefully before you leap, its quicker and dryer in the long run! The Wave-hopper and I had become closer through the trip and would want to spend more days together.

The support crew were there for us at every corner, cheering us from the bridges and through the weirs. Diligently taking the “to be proud of” photographs. Debbie’s camera seemed to get confused between us and the younger six packed fitter specimens as they paddled by - but I was in one of the shots - a dot in a distant top left corner. They picked up other stragglers along the way and carried the boats when we were just too exhausted - so a big thank-you to both.

There was Tea and Pasties for all at the finish. Well done to Mr. Somerset who came a credible 3rd in his class and received a pot for his efforts. There was a very proud glint and a tear in Mrs. Somerset’s eyes as the ex Disco-diva strutted forward for the presentation and his pot – she said little but you could tell that the experience was becoming too much for her.

The trip home brought out fresh revelations and some admissions from our ex-Chair on the Somerset’s life together. For legal reasons I am possibly obliged to remain quiet. However, at this festive time of little miracles it might be worth noting that Richard has the unique skills as a party host of turning wine into water – Mr. Dilution!

We dropped off Debbie and were approaching the still waters of Fleet and home. All were settled, reflective, tranquil and calm. A warm matrimonial glow had descended in the front of the car. We were discussing holidays and 1970’s orange and brown family tents, which we both co-incidentally own. Richard suddenly mentioned, and you may all like to know this, that he has a ridge tent for sale. Or as Pauline noted

- “it would be for sale if he advertised it”
- “that Pauline means I need time to put the tent up to take the photograph dear”
- the reply came most abruptly
- “you haven’t ***** done that because you are too busy paddling all the ***** time.”

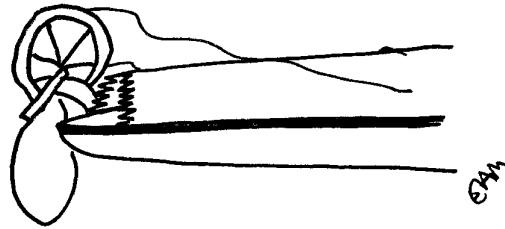
it just goes to show as we paddle through the calm waters of life there is often a weir around the corner.

N.B.

The Somerset’s would like to extend a warm welcome and invite all club members for Christmas Lunch. Just ring Pauline to book your place. Please bring a bottle.

Anon

NB It is not the policy of this publication to publish anonymous articles but in this case when news leaks out of his/her identity then I think you will find his/her name would be Mud.



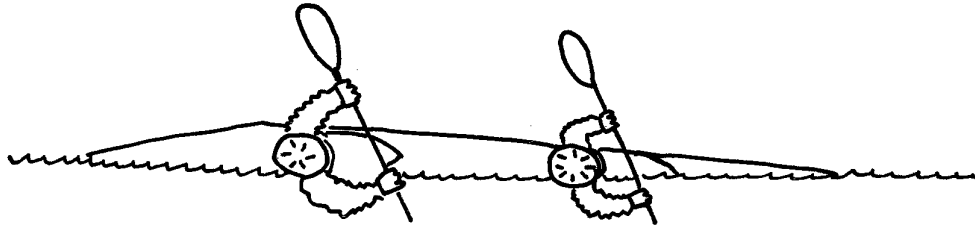
"Rudder, you are the weakest link!
Goodbye!"

You'll Never Swim Alone.(The K2 paddlers song of the Exe)

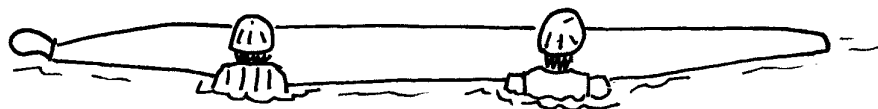
When you swim through a wave
Hold your feet up high
And try to avoid all the rocks
At the end of the waves is a quiet pool
And the welcome throw of a rope
Swim on, through the wind
Swim on, through the rain
Tho' your boat is holed and trashed
Swim on, swim on with hope in your heart
And you'll never swim alone
Swim on, swim on with hope in your heart
And you'll never swim alone
You'll never swim alone.

With apologies to Gerry and the Pacemakers! Mad C.

The joy of doubles ...



1) It is never, ever your fault



2) You'll never swim alone

Coaching

Canoe Safety Test Courses

The aim of the CST is to provide paddlers with rescue skills and safety awareness for themselves and others. It is also an essential qualification to become a coach. The course is open to those over 14 and with BCU kayak 2 star.

CST dates for 2007 are Sundays 13th May, 8th July & 9th Sept
For more information or to book, either speak to Lisa Wardle on Tuesday nights or call 07798 562562/01252 511813 or email me on l.wardle@virgin.net.

Recreational Training

One, two and three star courses will be available within the club starting in April. Please let me know if you would like to register for these. We also have a few paddlers arranging 4 star (inland kayak) training, if you would like to be involved please let me know. We also intend to arrange a 5 star training weekend on the Tryweryn in May, after a practice trip up there in April, again let me know if you think that you are ready for this.

We are hoping to organise a first aid session for club members at the beginning of the season, probably a 1 day course. Please let me know if you would be interested, and if you know of anyone who would be interested in providing such a course.

I am also considering arranging another White Water Safety and Rescue Course, probably in June on the Tryweryn. Feedback from the previous, very successful, course suggests that it will be suitable for youngsters provided they can confidently paddle moving water.

But of course there is nothing so important as getting out and using these hard won skills on real trips to keep them polished. The best season for river access is up until the end of March and trips are being organised for all standards. If you don't see something that you feel is suitable but would like to get paddling please contact me, or our new Trip co-ordinators - Richard Somerset and Keith Ambrose.

Merry.

Paddlesport Challenge

We have team Eskimos representing us this year. The results so far can be viewed on the youth website www.B3C-Youth.org.uk.

Coming up

Canoe Polo - 13th, 20th and 27th Jan Evenings – Willink Pool. Host BCCC

24th February – Orienteering - Pangbourne

March potentially 24th K4 – Reading (possibly Sprints as well)

April 29 (confirmed now) - NENE – Coaching and whitewater/ freestyle event/Race (exclusive use over lunch period)

May (tbc) Canoe Sailing, BBQ and Presentation Black Swan - (tbc help from Reading/Pangbourne)

Contact Paul J for more info.

SLALOM

Southern Region Interclub slalom

On January 21st we are hosting the first of the Southern Region Interclub slalom development series. These will be a series of 3 events between Basingstoke Canal, Winchester and Reading Canoe Clubs. The focus will be on training and development, and I hope that as many of you as possible will brave the winter weather to join in. As part of this development the Southern Region are also investing in a fleet of brand new 3.5m slalom kayaks. If we get a good turn out for these events then we have a very good chance of becoming the custodians of these boats.

The other events will be at Winchester on 4th Feb, and Reading on 18th Feb.

The first event of the new slalom season will be a div1/2 slalom at Shepperton on Mar 3 & 4. This is a great opportunity to see some quality paddlers in action and think about what you need to do to get to this level.

The Yalding Weir slalom in Kent is the first beginners (div3/4) slalom of the year. I will run a training session on the preceding Tuesday (the first after the clocks change) to support this. This is a really nice event, and not too far. Between the sessions the weir is released giving the bolder paddlers the chance to practice on some much more challenging water.

The full calendar is available at <http://www.canoeslalom.co.uk/2007calendar.pdf>

Other noteworthy events are:

28/29 Apr Winchester div4 ideal first slalom, similar environment to Mytchett

2/3 Jun Langham farm div3/4 only just down the road near Frome in Somerset

Congratulations to Aidan Bell for winning the Simpson Award for the best newcomer to slalom, and Hazel Williams for winning the Jarman Award for most successful ranked paddler at the AGM. Finally please remember to return your slalom bibs to the divisional officer if you have not done so already.

Merry

Hare and Hounds results

Hare and Hounds results are online, you can check the latest scores and series points at.

<http://homepage.nflworld.com/richard.somerset/results.html>

I have tidied up the presentation of the Hare & Hounds results for previous seasons.

I hope to be able to bring you the archives currently held by Paul Batchelor, yes I know a labour of love while the Turkey is cooking!

It is the season of good will after all (I drink: beer, wine both red and white, whisky, brandy, gin, vodka, port to name but few and not necessarily all at the same time!)

Richard Somerset H&H secretary (currently!)

Pool & Polo

For details of pool and polo sessions in the New Year check the website or contact our Pool-polo co-ordinator Keith Ambrose e-mail: Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com.

MARATHON

New racers always welcome, contact Charles Hicks on 01252 850657 or see below for training times.

World Championships. Club time trials. World's Apart? You might think so.

I had a most enjoyable trip to the Marathon World Championships in September. "Hmm" says Madam Chairman "could you do an article for Waterfront?"

At the Club, those of us in racing boats have been fitting in time trials over the past months, mainly to Kings Head Bridge and back and around Potters Island. "Hmm" says Madam Chairman "are you going to make a summary for the newsletter?"

Well, OK, but how do I make them interesting for the non-aficionados of flatwater racing? By the way, do you know that if you right click on any word in *Microsoft Word* you can find synonyms in the text box? Synonyms for aficionado? – devotee, enthusiast (they're fine), adherent (can't stick that), fanatic, fan (something in the ceiling that goes round and round), addict (not too keen on that one) admirer (sounds a bit lovey-dovey). You see even reading an article about canoe racing you can find something interesting and learn a thing or two. Are you still reading? My K1 is an *Obsession*, but we won't go down that route.

I digress? Well, no, not really. In all aspects of canoeing – or kayaking, if you prefer, and at all levels, there are aficionados. Enthusiasts who give their time and energy freely to the sport.

Strangely, to digress once more: one does not find in athletics competitors who race both sprint events and distance events let alone the marathon. In canoeing: quite the opposite. Louisa Sawers, double Junior Ladies World Marathon Champion: finalist in Sprint World and European Championships. Andy and Tom Daniels of Reading C.C: both competed in the World Marathon Championships; both are in the GB Sprint Team and this year won the Exe Descent in the shiniest K2 seen on the river and finished with hardly a scratch on the boat. And this is flatwater racing!

Club time trials

Of course, our main club time trial is the Hare & Hounds but there is plenty you can read about that on the website. In addition we have run on an ad-hoc basis time trials to Kings Head Bridge and around Potters. These are shorter and can easily be fitted into a training session. The KHB is 2.4 Km and twenty-three paddlers have taken part this year: their best results (unexpurgated) were as follows:

Kings Head Bridge

(Minutes:seconds)	2005	2006		2005	2006
Mike Lambert	13:23	12:23	Alan Coleman	15:32	16:00
Richard Somerset	12:21	12:35	Tim Truesdale	24:05	16:56
Liz Murnaghan	14:22	13:57	Michael Truesdale	17:07	16:52
Jon Mudd	16:09	14:17	Jason Dyer		17:44
Brian Gandy	15:00	14:50	Paula		19:43
Pete Absolom	13:46	14:52	Peter Murnaghan		21:40
Naomi Smith	17:30	14:54	Sonja Roper		22:02
Arran Steel	-	14:58	Neil Grant		23:14
Paul Jeffs	16:38	15:18	Hana Bird		23:54
Howard Smith	16:21	15:24	Sarah Murnaghan		26:50
Tracy Rees-Clark	15:54	15:34	Ryan Truesdale		23:27
Ruth Smith	-	15:40			

Thirty-seven paddlers have taken part in the Potters time trial, far more than last year. I do not know the exact distance, but I guess it is about 600 metres. Being shorter a fairly competent improver is able to concentrate on speed and technique without tiring too much yet has to negotiate a 180 degree turn and a “z” bend coming out of Potter’s pool. The results for his year were:

Around Potters : 2006

(Minutes:seconds)		Best	Best		Best	Best
		2005	2006		2005	2006
Mike Lambert	1	3:53	3:25	Tim Truesdale	21	4:33
Richard Somerset	2		3:28	Bob	22	4:34
Isobel/Naomi Smith	3	4:15	3:45	Howard Smith	22	5:03 4:34
Naomi Smith	4	4:55	3:56	Paul Jeffs	24	4:56 4:35
Naomi/Isobel(wrong way round!)	5		3:58	Alan Coleman	25	5:08 4:40
Isobel Smith	6	4:52	3:59	Michael Truesdale	26	5:30 4:42
Pete Absolom	7		4:01	Ruth Smith	27	4:54
Arran Steel	8		4:02	Jason Dyer	28	5:02
Jon Mudd	9		4:04	Neil Matthews	29	5:03
Chris Absolom	10		4:08	Lis Coleman	30	5:13 5:05
Peter Voisey	11		4:10	Isabel/Sabrina	31	5:10
Brian Gandy	12		4:14	Mark Dyer	32	5:23
James Freemantle	12		4:14	Paula	33	5:30
Liz Murnaghan	14	4:19	4:15	Sabrina Marchant	34	5:31
Howard/Debbie	15		4:18	Sarah	35	5:34
Tracy Rees-Clark	16	4:34	4:21	Isabel Simpson	36	6:10
Charles Hicks	17		4:22	Charles Winnan	37	6:13
Paul Batchelor	18		4:24	Ryan Truesdale	38	6:27
Jonathon Johns	19		4:31	Neil Grant	39	6:40
Paul Christmas	20		4:32	Hannah Bird	40	6:50

You can see at a glance those who have improved since last year and most have shown improvement through this year. For the rest of us....well, it is good to help and encourage those who are younger to improve. Mike Lambert, who won division 9 at our 2005 Hasler race won division 6 at this year’s race and is now competing in division 4. We took him a long way over the past year or so, but he has joined Wey Kayak in Guildford. They can take him further and his improved performances have given him the opportunity to attend GB development squad training sessions run by members of the Marathon Racing Committee over this winter.

Thanks to all who have helped with these time trials and to those who have encouraged the paddlers.

Marathon World Championships

Worlds apart from our local time trial? Yes, in one respect, of course it is, but not in another. The club trial is where the World Championship competitor starts. Those who have talent, athleticism, commitment and enormous support from coaches, family and colleagues can get to the Worlds. And who do they find there? Enthusiasts who give their time and energy freely to the sport. Members of the ICF; of the national federation hosting the event; of local clubs helping with the organisation. The team manager and team coaches – the very same people who, certainly in the case of the GB team, were the previous week coaching and assisting at their club time trial, running the development squad training sessions or their Hasler marathon race.

This year I took the opportunity to travel with the GB marathon teams firstly to a World Cup race in Spain and later to the World Championships. It gave me the opportunity as a selector, to meet with, socialise and help paddlers who I see several times in the year at assessment and other races; and what a great bunch they are. It also enabled me to appreciate the time and effort given by those who accompany the team.

The races in Spain had been of high standard and the GB team came home with a gold medal in the Junior Ladies K1 race – Louisa Sawers, of Elmbridge; a gold medal in the Junior Men's K2 race – Andy Daniels and Stuart Hastings of Reading, and silver in the Junior Men's K1 race – Edward Rutherford of Elmbridge. We were pleased with those results and also a month later when Claire Spencer, of Hereford, won silver in the Junior Ladies K1 race in Trencin, Slovakia.

We approached the World Championships with great hopes. The team flew from Stanstead on rather late flights to Bergerac: the K1 paddlers travelled a day ahead of the K2 competitors as they were to race a day earlier. I travelled with the K2 paddlers on Thursday evening arriving in Bergerac about 11 p.m. Now "Bergerac" the TV series may have been big, but Bergerac the airport is small: really small, and at 11 p.m. in the evening all facilities were shut, even the loos. We travelled by self drive mini-buses to a holiday camp on the banks of the Dordogne which was some 5 miles or so from Tremolat, the venue for the Championships. Accommodation was in self-catering chalets: breakfast and evening meals were provided at the holiday camp each day, and very good they were – certainly better than our experience in Spain!

Friday was a day of preparation. Completing accreditation for the team: getting boats off the trailer (they had been driven down to the Dordogne a few days earlier); preparing the boats and, for the competitors, familiarising themselves with the river and the portage. Masters events had been held on the Wednesday and Thursday in which over 50 GB paddlers had raced, so Friday was also a chance to meet with them and hear of their successes and experiences. The official opening ceremony was held in Tremolat, a picturesque village in an attractive setting on the banks of the Dordogne, with a local band heading the procession of national teams and with village children in traditional costume leading each of the teams.

Saturday dawned bright and the programme for the day started with the Junior K1 races in the morning and the Senior K1 races in the afternoon. After an early breakfast the juniors went by mini-bus to the course. The K1 paddlers prepared in the tented competitors' village which housed all of the national teams. Some competitors were quiet and contemplative: others not so! Individual kit, number boards, racing vest numbers, drink systems were got ready and last minute checks and adjustments made to seats, footrests and water pumps. A busy time for the management team and for the physiotherapist who travelled with us and who worked hard all week-end.

The river was about 80 metres wide and from the site spectators on the bank could see the start, finish, one of the turns and a kilometre or more of the 7.5k course. The portage was about 100 metres on a sandy track which proved very hard to run on, with a wooden pontoon to get out on and a sandy beach from which to launch. I did not see any of the portages during the races as these attract crowds of spectators, but I did spend some time there during the practice sessions. Watching some of the paddlers run at full pace in to the water and, in one flowing movement get in a K1 or K2 knee deep in water with the boat moving and with just the paddle bracing for support was quite superb. That's one reason why the portage attracts crowds during the race. The other is to see the spills as others get it wrong which is a bit like watching Formula One for the crashes.

The kayak racing was fast and exciting and certainly the best I have seen. It is difficult to convey the cut and thrust of the races, so I will just give you the results in a minute. The atmosphere was great, helped by the crowds lining the bank, particularly the Spanish who always give boisterous, jolly support to their team. Manuel Fernandez Busto, the current World Champion, went head to head in the Senior Men's K1 against Emilio Alonso Merchan (they all come with three-part names). They are great rivals and there is no love lost between them! Busto had the better support -fifty or so supporters came with orange and yellow flags, hats and drapes, together with picnic baskets, a tray of confectionery, wine, wooden rattles all of which, with some quite accomplished accordion playing by two of the younger girls, and some dancing enlivened the scene. They showed no disappointment that their favourite finished second in a photo finish with the Rubinstein, a South African, and Merchan. They simply celebrated that he had got the nod over Merchan. Busto raced again the next day in the K2 race and won, so they celebrated all over again.

Our results in the order of the races were:

Junior Men K1.

Winner Hubert (France) 1:31:51
Andy Daniels (Reading); 5th 13 seconds down.
Edward Rutherford (Elmbridge); 7th down 28 seconds

Junior Women K1.

Louisa Sawers (Elmbridge); Winner in 1:39:40
Claire Spencer (Hereford); 8th 4 minutes down

Senior Men K1.

Winner Rubinstein (South Africa); 2:33:35
Ben Brown (Elmbridge); 4th 7 seconds down
Tom Daniels (Reading); 10th 3 minutes down

Senior Women K1

Anna Hemmings (Elmbridge); winner in 2:11:11
Nicola Taylor (Elmbridge); 14th 9 minutes down

Junior Men K2

Winners Quentin/Hubert (France); 1:27:06
Andy Daniels/Stuart Hastings (Reading); 2nd 2 seconds down

GB had 14 boats in the eight kayak classes and achieved three gold medals and a silver amongst eleven top ten finishes, the best results GB has had for many years. Pick of the bunch: clearly the gold and silver medallists but also for me, Ben Brown and Edward Rutherford and Nathan Johnson, who was delighted with his performance in K2.

After the medal ceremony, load up all the boats, dinner for all the teams and dancing to a live band in the village. We travelled home the next day from Limoges in good spirits.

The hope now is that our additional concentration on the development programme brings on some of new talent. Some of our juniors show great promise as do our younger seniors. Louisa, Andy and Stuart move up to the senior ranks where, it has to be acknowledged, the pressures and incentives for the athletes to compete in sprint often win out over marathon. I hope that their performances in the last year or two entices them to continue on the marathon course alongside their sprint ambitions.

Given that, and given the continued support of those enthusiasts who give their time and energy freely to the sport, the future looks promising.

Next year? The Worlds are in Hungary where canoe racing is second only to soccer. Should be good I am told. They held a recent Sprint World Championships and had over 80,000 spectators. Now that is a world apart from our club time trials.

Brian Gandy

Editors bit

Well there it is, my first waterfront as editor. Thank you to all those who contributed and to those who didn't it's your turn next time. You have the lovely months of January and February to get out there and do something the rest of us would love to read about.

Copy date for the next issue is 19th February Email articles to me at Waterfront@B3C.org.uk

In addition to the events listed on the calendar, don't forget the following "regular" sessions:-

Tuesdays 9.30am Mytchett Introduction to Placid Water (term time only) Contact Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766

Tuesdays 7.15pm Mytchett For Marathon training, Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657

Thursdays 9.30am Marathon training Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657

Saturday Mornings at Mytchett Flat water coaching Contact Brian Gandy 01252 622630 and general paddling contact Jon Mudd 01252 629800

Most Saturdays Trip to local weirs or Nene Whitewater Centre Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579

Ben Parfitt (Elmbridge)/Tom Hide (Addlestone); 16th 5:55 down

Junior Women K2

Louisa Sawers/Jessica Walker (Royal); winners in 1:34:33
Fay Lamph (Wey)/Lizzie Broughton (Richmond); 12th 8 minutes down

Senior Men K2.

Winners Busto/Aizpurua (Spain) 2:23:23
Nathan Johnson/John Sawers (Elmbridge); 8th 3:37 down

Senior Women K2.

Winners Lolk/Barfod (Denmark); 2:02:32
Hayleigh Mason/Vicky Surrage (Nottingham); 8th 9:53 down

Senior Men C2.

Winners Csabai/Gyore (Hungary); 2:05:59
James Train/Matt Lawrence; 7th 10:43 down

A few dates for the calendar.

Dec 06			contact
25	*	Christmas day	
26	*	Boxing Day paddle at Church Crookham	Charles H.
31		The Biffin's New Year Bash- See above for details.	Brian B
Jan 07			
7		Frank Luzmore (13 miles, 3 portages; Shepperton – Richmond K2 only)	Charles H.
13		Paddlesport polo	Paul J
20		Paddlesport polo	Paul J
20	*	Hare and Hounds	Richard S
21		Inter-Club Regional Slalom @ Mytchett	Merry W
27		Paddlesport polo	Paul J
Feb 07			
4		Inter-Club Regional Slalom @ Reading	Merry W
9		Coffee morning	See Above
11		Waterside A (13.5 miles, 21 portages; Gt Bedwyn – Newbury)	Charles H.
17	*	Hare and Hounds	Richard S
18		Inter-Club Regional Slalom @ Winchester	Merry W
18		Thameside 1 (14 miles, 14 portages; Aldermaston –Reading)	Charles H.
19		Copy date for next waterfront	
24		Paddlesport Orienteering - Pangbourne	Paul J
25		Waterside B (18.5 miles, 23 portages: Newbury – Aldermaston – Newbury)	Charles H.
Mar 07			
3/4		Shepperton Slalom Div 1/2	Merry W
4		Thameside 2 (18 mile, 8 portages; Reading – Marlow)	Charles H.
11		Waterside C (22.5 miles, 30 portages; Pewsey – Newbury)	Charles H.
17	*	Hare and Hounds	Richard S
18		Royal K1/K2 (24 miles, 8 portages; Windsor – Teddington)	Charles H.
24		Paddlesport K4 Reading	Paul J
25		Waterside D (34.5 miles, 30 portages; Devizes – Newbury)	Charles H.
31/1	*	Yalding Weir Slalom div3/4	Merry W
Apr 07			
6/9		Devizes to Westminster	Charles H.
10	*	early registration evening for Paddlepower 2007	Paul J
17	*	first Paddlepower 2007 evening.	Paul J
21	*	Hare and Hounds	Richard S
22		Oxford Duathlon	Charles H.
28		Quiz night	See Above
28/29	*	Winchester Slalom div4	Merry W
29		Paddlesport NENE	Paul J
May 07			
6	*	*** Club Hasler ***	See Above
13		CST	Lisa W
19	*	Hare and Hounds	Richard S
27	*	Reading Circuit Hasler	Charles H.

Items suitable for younger paddlers are marked with a *

Charles Hicks 01252 850657	Richard Somerset 01252 683584
Merry Williams avme79@dsl.pipex.com	Brian Biffin 01252 616692
Kieth Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com	Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
Lisa W 07798 562562 / 01252 511813	

Further information on some events may be found at www.b3c.org.uk

Special waterfront reader offer

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I _____ (insert name here) would dearly like to win one of those handsome BCCC mugs for myself. Please show me how!

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No Thanks

Dear Howard/Brian,

Sorry _____ (insert name here) can't race, but would love to help. Please show me what I can do to help on the day!

It all happens on Sunday the 6th May 2007! Don't be a mug; win a mug, at the BCCC Marathon!

If you've enjoyed this mug, why not try winning more at one of the extensive set of Marathon races held throughout the region?

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