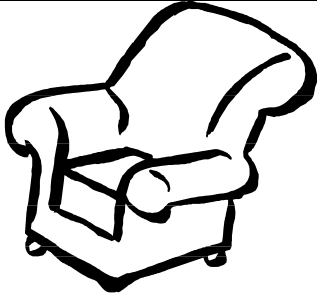




Waterfront

Issue 97

Feb04



From the Chair...

I hope you all had a good Christmas and received what you wanted. This time last year walls were being painted, partition walls moved and the largest Meccano project the club has ever seen was being put together.

Over the last few months we have been replacing boats and other equipment but we can not do this without your help in raising much needed funds. If you can help or have got any suggestions for Fund raising ideas please let me know.

Happy paddling

Lee Matthews

Arm chair paddling

The programme "The Basingstoke Canal in October" goes out in the "Country Ways" series on Meridian TV at 7.30 pm on Thursday 25 March 2004. The programme made us £70 for BCCC. Tune in to see some familiar old faces (and two not so old! Ed) enjoying a gentle paddle on the canal near Charles's house.

Real Paddling

The fun starts back at Mytchett on Tuesday evenings from 13th April. The Paddlepower scheme will start back the following week. We need more people to volunteer to help run things so that the emphasis is on "organised" rather than "chaos". There is more information inside on how you can help. Just pick up the phone and call Paul Jeffs to offer your services.

Congratulations!

To Yael (nee Chance) and Pete Ford on the birth of their daughter Isabel.

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THE COMMITTEE

Chairman
Lee Matthews 07950 232193

Secretary
Richard Somerset
01252 683584

Treasurer
Alan Small 01252 672693

Boat Store Co-ordinator
Dave Bevan 01276 502524

Youth Co-ordinator
Paul Jeffs 01252 615412

Newsletter
Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766

Club Mark Co-ordinator
Chris Belton

Pool & Polo co-ordinator
Keith Ambrose 01252 523579

Training Co-ordinator
Jane Roper 01252 622628

Trips Co-ordinator
Mike Carpenter 01252 877903

Flat Water Racing Co-ordinator
Charles Hick's 01252 850657

Child Protection Officer
Jon Mudd 01252 629800

NEWS

Help wanted!

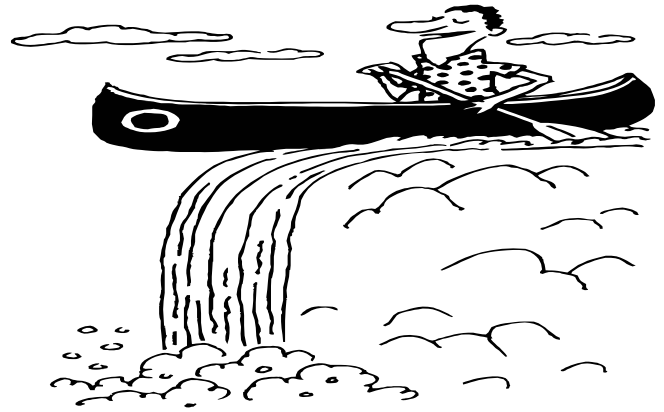
This Spring/Summer season we will need help on Tuesday evenings from parents and club members. We especially need volunteers for 'bank manager' duty (meeting, greeting, registering etc.) and a new duty 'boat manager' (allocating club boats fairly and safely, then some bank-side safety and ensuring the boats are put away). We also always need help on the water and newcomers could help relieve the stalwart band who often give up their own practice time to help us out.

Importantly, to ensure that we meet the high standards of our **child protection** policy, Jon Mudd (our Child Protection Officer) will ask helpers and volunteers do a simple, confidential self declaration. So, my request? **Please volunteer for either duty or to help now** - so that Jon can send you a form, and so that I can help plan this year's activities. Please email me on pjeffs@ntlworld.com or call me on 01252-615412 if you can help either occasionally or regularly. Many thanks to those who have volunteered so far.

Many thanks Paul & Jon

BCCC's Midsummer Madness and Mayhem Sponsored Paddlethon along the length of the Basingstoke Canal – 20th June

In an effort to support the much-needed replacement of boats and equipment we are planning a number of fundraising events this year. One idea is already being developed around a sponsored (relay) paddle along the whole length of the Basingstoke Canal. The plan would be to start the event just at two points, 'Greywell Tunnel' and 'Newhaw Lock' meeting at Mytchett in a finale of mayhem and madness. The total distance is approximately 32 miles max – Instead of a relay baton we would tow two floating ducks (Titania and Oberon) to meet in the middle for their own version of a Midsummer Nights Dream!



By dividing sections appropriately this is achievable but we will clearly be reliant on 'Flat Water' racing to support distance needs! The aim is for the club to complete the distance as opposed to individuals being sponsored to complete a smaller number of miles. The ultimate club challenge! It is hoped that all forms of paddling from the norm to the ridiculous will be represented. (Marathon; K1, K2, K4? Lightning's; Sprints; Sprints with a difference (200m with 5 rolls on route); Bell boat; Short slalom course; Polo on the move; Sea boats; Coracles (?); Rafting; Fancy dress section; Open, using Paddling/Pulling and Poling; White water with wash developers. It would be envisaged that both Youth (around Mytchett) and adult versions of the above events could be organised. The more, the madder, the merrier!)

There is much to plan and we will need everyone's support in raising funds as part of this event. There could be open invitations to other local canoe clubs/organisations to join us on this day. If anyone has any further ideas or can to support the fundraising group then please contact Lee or any of the committee. We will update you further in the next Newsletter

Jon Mudd

The Outdoors Show, which includes the Canoe Exhibition is at the NEC in Birmingham on 2-4 April. More information at www.theoutdoorsshow.co.uk

LETTERS

On discretionary donations from Dorking

Forgive this somewhat frivolous and irreverent approach to the vexed subject of membership subscription but clearly and excess of sherry and mince pies over the Christmas holiday affected the judgement of our esteemed committee members when they came to consider the setting of membership subscriptions for this year. I had never considered before the novel concept that the raising of funds should be largely on a voluntary basis. So, I began thinking.....zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz. If a voluntary contribution from members to cover the cost of club boats (and presumably reflect the relative useage by members of those boats) is justified then why not a voluntary contribution for other things too. How about voluntary contributions from:

1. new members who should pay more than longer standing members because they, quite rightly, place greater demands on club resources eg equipment, training, guidance and supervision
2. children because they stand to gain more from their membership than older members
3. non paddling members because they don't contribute to the collective level of paddling competence in the club
4. marathon paddlers because their boats take up more room on boat store racks, roof racks, canal banks and waterways
5. paddlers without coaching qualifications as non qualified paddlers get more from the club in training benefit
6. members who live closest to Mytchett because they have most convenient access to club resources
7. wealthiest members, **YES ! means tested subscriptions !**

So, sorry if you happen to be a newly joined, young (but wealthy), unqualified marathon paddling member in Mytchett. It looks as though your membership has just gone up by 462%. Conversely, should I, not a new member or young or a marathon paddler or living close to Mytchett or wealthy (or a user of club boats) get a reduction in my membership.

Thinking about it, I wonder if I can encourage this concept with the Nationwide Building Society, the Inland Revenue, Mole Valley District Council, British Telecom, any of six credit card companies and anyone else who presumes to have a priority claim on my hard earned cash ?

Come on Committee, you know this approach can't be right. If the club really needs an extra 66% from all members to cover costs then everyone should pay.

Martin Sanders

Thanks Martin. You will see from the Dec03 Waterfront that the committee has already introduced fees to increase revenue from some of the sources you suggest. New members have to pay an increased "Joining Fee" to join the Club, children (or their Parents!) have to pay for coaching under the Paddlepower scheme, star test fees have also been increased. There are also a number of fund raising events planned.

Ed

TRIPS AND TOURS

Darting About

December 20 and 21 saw the first real club whitewater trip of the 2003/4 season. Low and rain and bumpy rivers had precluded and postponed trips planned in November and early December. So, it was with the words "it'll be bumpy and scratchy" that I chose the lower

volume of my two boats to take on the weekend trip on the River Dart.

I picked up Richard and Tim and off we toddled to the edge of Dartmoor, arriving in the River Dart Country Park to find that all the facilities there (normally a café and decent toilets) weren't open, but the canoeing shop, staffed by one

stalwart, was. Of course, we also found Nigel and Liz, sheltering there, looking at kit. Nigel bought a new dry-cag, on the basis that the split neck-seal on his older one, via Sod's Law', had caused him to capsize on some previous trips....

To the river! It seems that some recent rain however, had filled the hills and was now flowing into the Dart. Running at a fast 5.5 to 6', it wasn't quite the bumpy ride we'd been expecting and was faster than most had seen it for several years! We tackled the lower section first and I managed to surprise everyone by performing a whitewater roll within a few seconds of entering the water. It seems that too many pies and no paddling had increased my paddler-weight/boat-volume ratio to make my Necky Bliss a bit catchier than expected.... A bad workman always blames his tools! Anyhow, we had a fun morning on the lower Dart, which was certainly running very fast, but is quite gentle feature-wise. The biggest fun was shooting a large weir towards the end, near Buckfast.

In the afternoon we moved to the Dart Loop. This has several higher grade (2-3) features and was much more technical. I certainly found myself rolling more often than expected to extract myself from the icy stuff. The Washing Machine, Spin Drier, Triple Drop, Lovers Leap.... It was Lovers Leap that got me! At the bottom of the rapid I hit a submerged rock, turned over, tried rolling once, tried rolling twice only to find I was against a cliff wall... That was the only swim of the trip, but it was a bumpy and painful one, especially as I twisted my hand in one of the loops on my boat. Re-united with boat and paddle (thanks team!) I portaged the (roaring) triple drop but got some great pictures of everyone else coming down.

Everyone else managed the trip without a bump, but a couple of Hobgoblins in the pub eased some of the pain!

With just four of us the next day (Liz having Sunday dinner with her parents) we started with the loop and continued on through the lower section, all in go. A drop of 1 to 1.5' in water levels had totally changed the character of the river and many features were much more playable and at a good level for instruction in

new techniques. High cross – let's try that again! Richard had a go in the Necky, "very grabby Paul" was the verdict. We even saw some playboat 'splats' on the cliff that had got me the previous day. Swims? None.

A much better day!

So? Lessons learnt? Bigger boats for bigger or new rivers (or fewer pies?) Put a couple of old-fashioned trailing straps on the Necky. Think about using the Acrobat for that Wye trip coming up. Oh, and go for it, every time!

Paul Jeffs



With thanks to William "not Bill" Nealy. In his classic book "Kayak" white water swimmers are classified into "Bad" or "Good" victims depending on whether or not they panic. The best way to tell if a paddler is freaked out is if he/she doesn't say "I'm OK...get my boat".

Why Wye ? Why not Wye

After all, its not a bad river, permitted access, perhaps rather too many flat bits between the rapids. I had done the stretch between Built Wells and Boughrood about eight years ago, in relatively low water. It was quite a long paddle then, about 12 miles or so. Its still quite a long paddle now, pretty much the same length by all accounts although an extra four or five feet of water in the river made it seem a lot shorter.

Thanks to the Internet I found a B&B overlooking the river in the town centre and quite affordable too (no I didn't say cheap although it was good value for money). I have to say that yours truly did not ingratiate

himself with the landlady by behaving in a number of ways which she found socially or otherwise unacceptable. I'll explain before your imagination runs riot at this point.

Three of us arrived on Friday night and were duly given one to one tuition by our landlady in Keys Drill. When you come in take your room key from the key box but be sure to leave the front door key. Apparently this way she knows who is in and who is out. When you go out leave your room key in the key box and remove the front door key. Again further clues as to who is in and out. I climbed the two flights of stairs to my room and came down again to get further bags from the car. Well, silly old me. I assumed that going out of the front door to the car would not require the implementation of the full Key Drill. As I crept out of the door to avoid detection Landlady appears at a door behind me and, in a censorious and thoroughly disapproving manner asks me whether I have left my room key in the key box. I am about to explain that I am not going anywhere when her body language leaves me in no doubt that such protestations would fall on deaf ears. Defeated I return, as if to the Headmasters study, to return my room key and head off for the front door. "Won't you be needing your front door key" Landlady asks, again in a disapproving tone that only Welsh landladies of a certain age can muster. I was about to explain that I wasn't leaving but only going to my car when, again from the body language, it was clear to me that any protestation along these lines would be also be fruitless. Needless to say I returned to the key box for the front door key. There were other peculiarities of the Key Drill which seemed to fail to deliver quite the results that the landlady was looking for eg if the occupants of more than one room left the B&B together but taking only one front door key our landlady would assume that occupants of one room were in residence when in fact they were not. I did not point out this defect. Or for that matter how the key drill accommodated a shared room in which only one of the occupants would be out.

Having parked my car in the wrong place, failed to notify our landlady in advance that we would be only three on the Friday night instead of four as planned, sitting myself comfortably in what I assumed was the TV lounge only to be asked to leave her "private area" and having been found out hanging damp thermals from the curtain rail (apparently she has previous experience of such actions causing the curtail rails to come crashing down) I was left with the certain feeling that if we announced that we would not be making further booking with her that she would not be heartbroken. In all other respects, if there were any, the Bron Wye Guest House was adequate.

And so to the river. David Mantell, Nigel Telfer and I met with Richard Somerset, Matt Lockey, Paul Mant and Paul Jeffs who had driven up on Saturday morning. This section of the River Wye has some good rapids on it, four of any size but that means quite a bit of water with not much interest. At this level the bigger rapids are really quite big and though not much to satisfy the ardent playboater they create a sizeable rollercoaster. As the road bridge at Llanstephan came into view so did the unmistakable sound of Hell Hole Rapid. Despite on a previous trip having encountered the landowner at this point (who demonstrated his feelings towards canoeist by felling a tree on us with the help of a chainsaw !) we decided to inspect before running this bit. Depending on your particular proclivities you can either get a sever trashing in the series of threatening stoppers on the left of the river or you can take the somewhat safer route down the right. Having not encountered the unmistakable sound of a chainsaw this time and, having nothing to prove (either to ourselves or to anyone else) we took the right hand route which provided enough excitement for most of us.

On Sunday we were on the River Irfon. A much smaller river joining the Wye at Builth Wells and a shorter paddle. The river levels had dropped over night largely because a severe frost had locked up much of the normally available water in permafrost. Another pretty decent if somewhat

uneventful paddle except for Paul Jeffs and I, selflessly we thought, testing the temperature of the water by total immersion just in case others might be faced with the same prospect. They weren't! But, hey, where we lead others may follow.

Martin Sanders

PS As often happens when the imagination is lubricated with a little local ale in the evening the conversation turned to the hallucinogenic properties of the Fly Agaric, Amanita muscaria, you know, the red mushroom with white spots. Paul Jeffs, who may well have spoken with some personal knowledge on the subject, claimed that the mushroom had narcotic properties. I countered this by saying that my own experience was that it was simply poisonous. Well, research has shown that in fact we were both right. If anyone wants to know how to convert the ibotenic acid, the poison found in the raw mushroom, into muscalone, which is the narcotic I am now able to tell you. Given that my employer is, in large measure, charged by Parliament with curbing the illicit consumption of drugs I can only respond to personal callers....you understand.

The case of the cursed pogies.

Those interested in the genre of horror will, no doubt, be familiar with the story of the Monkey's Paw. A sad and tragically ending tale of 3 wishes bestowed upon the owner of said paw. Well this is the case of two pairs of pogies borrowed from an eminent White Water paddler, who shall remain nameless, by two of his colleagues during a recent descent of a Welsh river. The air was cold and the water crisp despite the lazy sun in the sky. Protection was sought for two pairs of paddle clenching paws so two pairs of pogies were borrowed and the descent began. All was well for 2 to 3 miles, water was shed from these pogies and the paws within kept warm. During this distance clearly 3 wishes must have been made i.e. 'let there be a wave big enough around the corner to surf on', 'I do not want these boils to tip my boat over' and 'I hope that we stop for lunch soon'. Wishes must have come true

because luck was about to run out for these pogy wearers. The five member band soon came across a water feature which called out 'come play, come play!' The group summoned to this call obeyed and joy was seen on their faces but the mistress of the deep suddenly and cruelly struck. An upturned boat and a swimming kayaker was the result. All was rectified and the group resumed their travels down the river. Within a mile or two another water feature beckoned 'come play, come play!' and weak as man is we all duly played. Then for the second time that morning another kayaker with a borrowed pair of pogies were struck by the mistress of the deep and lo another upturned boat and swimming paddler!

The owner of these pogies is seeking advice on cleansing these clearly cursed paw covers before they strike again.

“RS”

*If anyone can help with a suitable charm please phone Richard Somerset.
Ed*

COACHING

2004 Courses Courses Courses 2004

The BCU Star Courses are an excellent way of improving your paddling skills and getting to know fellow enthusiasts. At BCCC we are fortunate to have instructors who can provide training and testing up to 3 star in Kayak, Placid Water and Open Canoe. But why stop there: there are many other opportunities also available including 4 and 5 star in sea/slalom/racing/surf/polo/WW/canoe, coaching, first aid, canoe safety, time trialling and marathon. Club members and coaches may be able to help you to prepare for some of these, or provide recommendations for centres that can. And of course Paddlepower is ideal for the younger paddler.

1 star provides an introduction to the essentials of canoeing

2 star develops the essential strokes and safety skills

3 star provides a firm foundation for moving water
- including all the theory you will need at the appropriate level

We plan to run the following ADULT* courses as soon as we get back into the Centre in Mytchett on a Tuesday Evening.

- Kayak 1/2*
- Open Canoe 1/2*
- Placid Water 1/2* (ideal for those who like to get in some miles rather than getting wet!)
- Kayak 3*
- Open Canoe 3*
- Kayak 4* training (assessment will have to be done externally)

And don't forget the Hare & Hounds, an ideal way to develop racing skills or just improve your fitness for canoeing.

We may also arrange some special sessions at the pool to practice rescue techniques, if that seems appropriate to everyone's interests.

Clinics, at the pool or on open water, can be arranged if required. These could be in

- rolling
- braces
- sculling
- and many other specific areas that you might like to develop

The club would like to encourage people to have competence in first aid and canoe safety techniques and may be able to contribute towards the cost. The canoe safety test is available at a number of local training centres and is a reasonable objective of all 2* paddlers. First aid courses are available through the Red Cross, St Johns Ambulance and the RYA (eg www.hawleylake.org) amongst others.

Of course we also need to develop coaches in order to develop the club. Coaching qualifications become accessible after 2* level has been achieved. Again these qualifications are available from a number of training centres and financial support may be available from either the club or BCU for this.

If you are interested in following the star courses, or would like help with development of any other aspects of canoeing please contact me at merrywilliams@waitrose.com. If I already have your name collected from the pool sessions then that is sufficient. I am expecting quite a high demand for some of these courses and apologise now for the possibility that not everyone may be able to start as soon as they would wish.

Please note that ADULT does not preclude children, but does indicate that the course will be run in a way that is designed for adults. Hopefully most of the younger paddlers will have their needs met through Paddlepower which will be including, at least, kayak 1 and 2 this year.

Merry Williams

Otters and Platypii?

"Otters? Platypii?" you say - "What are they?"

The BCCC 'Canal Otters' is the name we gave our team that's participating in the FUN BCU Southern Region Paddlesport Challenge for youngsters. In January's event we got so many youngsters along that we had to form another team – the Platypii. The challenge is fun and only mildly competitive. You can still join it provided you're under 16. It's a great opportunity to do some fun paddling and gain new experiences in the 'cold season'. The events can count toward Paddlepower challenges too.

We've had five events so far, attended most, and had fun every time.

The first event was a Marathon race on 28 September. Freddy Oliver got fifth place overall in a Lightning. Sian O'Halloran-Dyke did well too, piloting a Lightning for the very first time. Annadel Horner and Hazel Williams had a race all of their own - coming a good second place in the 'touring' section racing a Canadian against a Rob Roy (in the face of changing rules and boat allocations)! (By the way – we will get 4 Lightnings at the club soon, now they've been part funded by Sport England/Lottery!)

We didn't paddle in the next event, a K4 race on 18 October. We were unable to organise a practise session beforehand, and so didn't have enough confident aspirants. Nevertheless we went along to help and found that the boats are actually more stable than expected. Michael and Andrew Jeffs both wanted to participate after seeing the other teams take part. I hope we'll be up for it next year.

In November we attended a slalom event (15 November) on the Thames at Reading. The organisers did a great job and we had 7 Otters attending. The event was a flat-water slalom over 14 gates with a good third of the gates involving a turnaround and a couple of really tricky ones. Everyone had two rounds on the course. The Otters, as a team, came 5th out of 7; Annadel Horner and Hazel Williams came first and third in their respective age/gender groups; and Freddy Oliver had the best time of all the Otters who attended. Rowan Williams, Craig Horner, Michael and Andrew Jeffs; all gave a respectable performance too. The final results didn't mention the 4-and-a half minute time that Merry and I did in a Canadian without any practice or particular synchronisation, but it gave everyone a laugh, including us.

We missed out on the fun pool games session in December – a busy time for most.

In January we had an indoor, dry event at the Reading YMCA. The event involved 8 different activities – a jigsaw boat, making a canoe sail, designing a slalom course, first aid, throwlines, indoor paddling, a 'generation game' conveyor belt of canoeing kit, and a quiz. This event was most popular. With 11 youngsters from the BCCC attending, we had to form a second team to keep within the rules of the competition, so The Canal Platypii were born... The Otters and the Platypii came 6th and 7th, respectively, in a field of 7. The Otters came joint-first in the design of a slalom course and the Platypii came second in the First Aid.

What's next? A 3-part polo event (3 Saturday evenings in February, organised by us), a sprint in March, Canadian orienteering 24 April (tbc), white-water racing (tbc), and a prizegiving/fun day which we hope to include some sailing and windsurfing... The polo looks to be good, with

lots of youngsters attending January's paddle-free polo sessions.

Remember – the 'Otters and Platypii' isn't the only thing you can do whilst it's cold – but it is fun. We don't have the oldest team(s), so we're in it for the fun and experience, not so much the competition. For other ideas of what to do in the cold season – check out the 'Can I Paddle Too' section on our website. Examples include the regular Hare and Hounds.

So why Canal Otters? Why Canal Platypii? I've never seen an Otter or a Platypus on the canal? Surely there's not such a thing? There are... they're just rare.....

Contact me, Paul Jeffs (Youth Co-ordinator), if you want to participate with the Otters or Platypii or if you don't see my regular emails.

Paul Jeffs

Placid Water

Q. Where is the nearest stretch of natural white water?

A. Devon? Symonds Yat? Miles away.

Q. Where is the nearest stretch of placid water?

A. Basingstoke Canal - on your doorstep.

Q. Have you tried a placid water kayak?

The Club has a number of kayaks designed for placid water. You are very welcome to try these on the canal. The common features of each of the boats are that they:

- (a) have large cockpits (easier to get in and out);
- (b) have a rudder (much easier to go in straight line), and
- (c) are longer and (saves energy - unless you want to race!).

That apart they require virtually the same techniques as general purpose and white water boats. They go faster and straighter and will not turn on a sixpence. If you have mastered a general purpose boat you should have little trouble in handling one of the fast touring kayaks. It is a bit like riding a bike. If you have never ridden one before, you will probably wobble and fall off at the first few attempts. If you can ride a touring or mountain bike, a top of the range racing machine will feel unstable, but chances are you will keep upright. It's the same

with these kayaks. Most members will quickly be able to handle a fast touring kayak. The racing kayaks will take a bit of mastering.

We have posted a list of kayaks on the notice board with a stability grade to give you a simple comparison between the boats.

I was going to say, "Have a think about it." No. "Come and do something about it." There are several of us who can assist you on the water.

The boats and the placid water canal are there for your enjoyment. Do come and have a go.

Brian Gandy

Watersides

Once again your Club has entered a team for this gruelling series of Marathon races. The short one is only 13.5 mile long and the longest a mere 34 miles. Four of last year's survivors (Pete A, Chris A, Brian and Liz) want to do it all again this year They have been joined by Tyson, he is still a junior and says he's "not responsible" for his actions, this means he can shift the blame to someone else for signing him up!

Our team name is **BCCC**, you may naturally think that this is because we want to promote the Club, however it is mere coincidence. **BCCC** actually stands for **Big Consumers of Cake and Confectionery**. Tyson and Chris have been known to scoff handfuls of jelly beans prior to training. We don't know if it's the sugar or all

the artificial colourings which make them so fast. (Or it might just have something to do with them being so much younger than the rest of the team!). We've also decided to have a team cake at the end of each race. Last Sunday after 13.5 mile of paddling and 21 portages it was great to sink our teeth into Margaret Absolom's lovely carrot cake. The team keep reminding me to give the fruit cake (for race "D") another splash of brandy.

Enough talk of cake! You want to hear all about the racing. The weather was kind, no howling gales to fight against, and though grey and overcast it stayed dry for our loyal support crews. Conditions on the canal were bumpy in places, especially when the top K2s shot past in a narrow section. Chris and Tyson were fastest in a time of 2hrs 14'. Pete came in next in 2hrs 32' followed by Liz 2hrs 40' then Brian 2hrs 45'. Brian should have been quicker but he had a new pair of lycra shorts on. You know what it's like when you've got new kit, you just have to get it wet. I learnt something too. After crossing the finish line, I threw my head back in exaltation, then, not concentrating as I looked forward managed to stuff the straw of my drinks bottle up my nose. Ouch! Don't do that again. We will be back for longer races and more portages on 29th Feb.

Liz Murnaghan

Hare and Hounds Results

December 2003

1 st	Dave Belbin	48.15	Visitor
2 nd	Tina Parsons	49.16	Visitor
3 rd	T. Simons & C. Absolom	55.55	10
4 th	Brian Gandy	63.40	9
5 th	Alan Coleman	70.30	8

January 2004

1 st	Alan Coleman	66.20	10
2 nd	Liz Murnaghan	62.40	9
3 rd	T. Simons & C. Absolom	55.17	8
4 th	Pete Absolom	59.29	7
5 th	Brian Gandy	61.44	6

After 5 races Alan Coleman is in the lead with 37 points from 4 events. Liz Murnaghan is chasing him with 33 points from 4 events. Paul Massam is next with 24 points from 3 events. In the doubles Tyson Simons and Chris Absolom have 38 points from 5 events. Remember it is the best 6 results to count and with 7 races still to go there is still the chance that a new improving racer will "upset the appplecart". Could it be you?

A few dates for the calendar.

NOTE. Events suitable for young people are marked with a *.	
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
Apr04	
2 nd - 4 th	* Canoe Exhibition and Outdoors Show at NEC See inside for details
9 th - 12 th	Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race Contact Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766
11 th	* Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
13 th	* Start of summer season at Mytchett. Volunteers of help to Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
17 th	* Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
18 th	* Wey Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
20 th	* Paddlepower sessions start at Mytchett Contact Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
25 th	* Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
	Advance notice 23 rd May BCCC club marathon. Volunteers wanted to help and also to paddle for the club!

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

I hope that you enjoy this edition of Waterfront, there are no prizes for counting how many times food is mentioned in the articles, In the next edition I can promise you even more marathon content with full Watersides coverage and possibly Thamesides as well. If you want accounts of the rough as well as the smooth then the solution lies at your fingertips! Articles about paddling, and the best recipes to enhance your performance in a boat to the usual address.

Please forward articles to:-

Liz Murnaghan
10 Elsenwood Drive
Camberley
GU15 2AZ

or E mail:liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com
The closing date for issue 98. is 1st May 2004