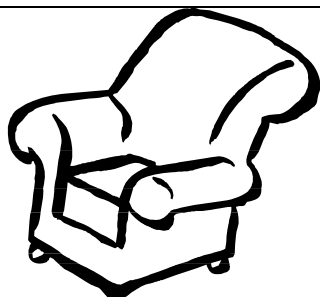




Waterfront

Issue105

Feb06



From the Chair...

I hope that you all had a cracking good Christmas and trust that you're New Year will bring all your hopes and wishes!

I hope, 2006 like 2005 will be a year of achievements for us all. It's really encouraging to see the membership numbers increasing but with that takes demands on equipment and resources so please lend a hand on a Tuesday night with Paddlepower or join the fundraising team

Our training team are rearing to go (or should I say fast asleep) so please if you would like to do any star test or have a go at paddling a different craft please ask and our team of coaches will try to help.

Running on from the success for our junior team in polo at Willink pool, as part of the Southern region Paddlesport challenge a very well done and I hope that participation in polo on our pool night carries on

Our slalom sub committee has been formed and a mini course has been redesigned, so if you wish to have a go please talk to Merry Williams and his team

If polo or slalom is not your cup of tea why not try flat-water racing, the gang are always looking out for that gold medallist

Happy paddling

Lee Matthews



Your Club needs YOU !

The Club annual Hasler marathon race is on Sunday 14 May at the Canal Centre.

We expect a busy day. Put bluntly: WE NEED YOUR HELP

There is a wide variety of jobs during all or part of the day.

Please give me a call or send me a message if you can help.

Brian Gandy 01252 622630
gandy@adslmail.newnet.co.uk

Go on: please call.



CONTENTS

- 2 News & forthcoming events**
- 3 Trip reports**
- 5 Coaching**
- 5 Pool & Youth**
- 6 Marathon**
- 7 Hare & Hounds**
- 7 For Sale & Editors Bit**
- 9 Calendar**

THE COMMITTEE

Chairman

Lee Matthews
07950 232193

Secretary

Jon Mudd
01252 629800

Treasurer

Dave Horner
01252 624752

Boat Store Co-ordinator

Dave Bevan
01276 502524

Youth Co-ordinator

Paul Jeffs
01252 615412

Training Co-ordinator

Jane Roper
01252 622628

Child Protection Officer

Brian Biffen
01252616692

Racing co-ordinator

Charles Hicks
01252 850657

Fundraising

Carole Simons
01276 23235

Co-opted member

Keith Ambrose
01252 523579

NEWS

Congratulations

The Wey Hare and Hounds series finished on 12th February. Some good results from all the club paddlers who competed this year. Special mention must go to Tracy Rees-Clark, who won the visiting senior trophy, and Isobel Smith, who won the visiting junior trophy. The trophies were presented by the Chairman of the Marathon Racing Committee, Mr Brian Gandy.

Boat store

Will the owner of the following boat

HTP/ Prijon / Sea Kayak Red

Please contact Lee Matthews 07950 232 193 dusty.leemathews@tiscali.co.uk

If you wish to rent a space for your vessel in our Boat house please contact Lee Matthews

The following charges are for 12 months

Recreational Kayaks	£20.00
K1	£20.00
K2 & Sea Kayak	£30.00
Canadians	£50.00

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Cardington

Will be on the first May bank holiday from 28th April to 1st May. All are welcome. For more info please contact Lee Matthews on 07950 232 193. Cardington is an artificial white water training site providing ideal conditions for your first “steps” on moving water. Racing types can come too, Bedford marathon is on that weekend, just a few miles away. Several club members have birthdays that weekend so expect a party atmosphere.

Club Marathon, 14th May 2005

This will be the Club's 22nd Hasler Marathon. It is part of a National series and our race usually attracts over 100 entrants, and last year a record breaking 275.

So, how can you support the Club at the Marathon? Well, you can:

RACE. IT IS AN EVENT OPEN TO ALL

All ages - from under 10'ss to over 70's

All standards – from novice beginners to the Junior World Champion.

All types of boats – racing boats, fast tourers, Canadians, general purpose boats, singles and doubles.

It is open to you! If you have not raced before join us at one of our practice sessions (details below). We will help you get started. Come along with a friend and try a double.

HELP. We would appreciate your help.

On the day before the race – to clear and prepare the course.

On race day with car parking, booking in of competitors, refreshments, help with the starts, timing of

races, turn marshals, safety marshals, prize giving and clearing up the site.

None of this is difficult and we will give you full instructions.

WATCH. It will encourage those of us racing and helping at the event to have your support. The start and finish is close to the Canal Centre and you can see all competitors at least twice in the section between Mytchett and Great Bottom Flash.

So one way or another, please give the Club your support.

Please give me a call or email me:

Brian Gandy 01252 622630 gandy@adslmail.newnet.co.uk

Bright Spark

Jerry Rogers will be giving an illustrated talk about his attempt to row the Atlantic on Weds 15th March. 7pm for 7.30 at the Canal Visitor Centre.

TRIPS AND TOURS

The Usk – 28/29 January

One of the largest whitewater groups ever assembled, or so it seemed, set out from various parts of the country on Friday 27 January to meet on the River Usk. Many from the BCCC and a number of guests made this a truly diverse weekend. For my part it made a change to drop the image of a gentleman's club (well, some may challenge the use of the word "gentleman") and welcome what by recent standards was a veritable glut of lady paddlers. Thanks to Anne, Liz, Becky, Hazel and Jules for providing much needed variety and showing the rest of us how to deal with the falls at Sennybridge and Mill Falls between Talybont and Llangynidr. I think, from recollection we had seventeen paddlers for which we split into two groups. It seemed that every other canoe club in the UK was on the Usk that weekend and most had come with equally large groups. Needless to say there was considerable congestion at the start and finish.

Merry had arranged accommodation at the Cynon Valley Centre. Alan Dressel and I, founder members of the "Old Gits Club", a faction of grumpy old men within the BCCC decided that if there was a choice to be made between a sleeping bag or a soft goose down duvet we would plump for the duvet. Similarly, if it was also a choice between sliced porridge sandwiches for breakfast or the full monty prepared in a five star kitchen, well, what do you think. And if we had a choice of doing the washing up or not doing the washing up we chose the easy option. So our choice was the B&B on the banks of the Usk only a couple of minutes walk from the get in at Talybont. Anne and Shaemus, our hosts even offered to dry all our wet gear, ferry our cars for us and that was after tea and cakes in front of a roaring log fire in the evening. So there it is Merry, when the chips are down duvet, breakfast, dry gear and log fire win every time.

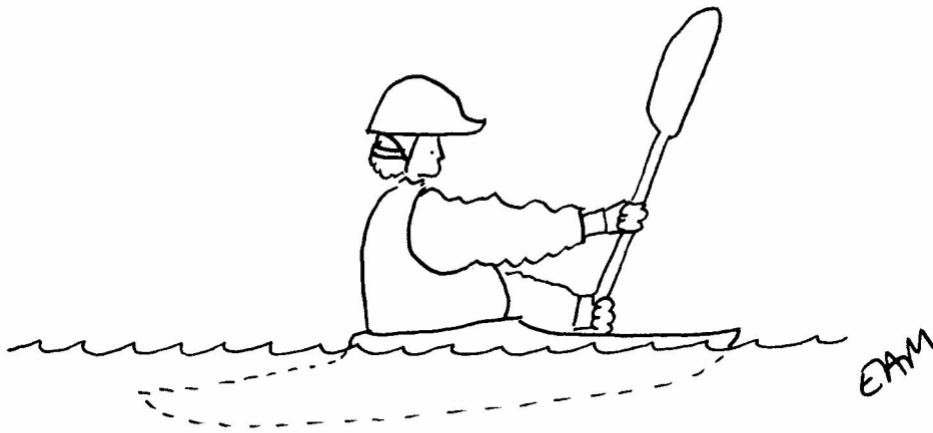
Credit where credit is due, however. The New Inn at Cefn Rhigos was a spectacular success. We all met up there on Saturday evening for a meal. Something of an oasis in the desert it has to be said. The sight on the way of a car without wheels, a house with all its windows smashed and a boarded up pub made me wonder. No need. The food and beer were great.

The river, unfortunately, hadn't prepared itself for our arrival. Someone rather carelessly had left the plug out and levels were unhelpfully low. Much bumping and scraping spoiled the fun somewhat and paddles hitting on rocks did nothing to improve the appearance of our paddles. Jules lost a chunk out of hers and Alan's, well it was difficult to tell how many chunks he lost from his as they were pretty well battered before he started. Some of you may remember those pink and yellow fluorescent laminated Schlegels with the razor blade insert in the ends, notionally to reinforce the blade but actually very effective in repelling any paddler who strays into range.

It's definitely worth doing this river again with quite a bit more water. It becomes a very different prospect and a lot more fun. Anyway, the third drop at Sennybridge was fun. Its not all that big but it seems to look a long way down when perched on the edge. Mill Falls was also pretty rocky but for the first time in my experience it was possible to paddle either far left or far right. Plenty of play spots there and in the rapids farther down the river.

As for Talybont, if you happen to find yourself there you won't find a shortage of places to eat and drink. Called into the (can't remember for sure. It wasn't the Queen Vic but could have been the White Hart). Alan and I were the only ones there at around 7.30. I asked the barman when it gets busy thinking he would say around 9 o'clock. "Early April" was his reply !!

Martin Sanders



Modern playboats are no good at hiding Christmas excesses.

Cartoonist's note: Sadly there can only be one original cartoon. Several members of the committee inspired this cartoon. (It is not for me to say which members.) If you know someone who needs a copy, they can now be downloaded from the "Sketchbook" section of the Club website. www.b3c.org.uk

Teign and Dart – 14/15 January.

This was part of what has now become an annual event to paddle at least one new river or section of river. The group was Alan Dressel, Richard Somerset, Nigel Telfer, Paul Kaine and myself. The Teign is a kind of sister river to the Dart but, like the Usk later in the month, suffered from a lack of water. The Teign is very much the Curate's Egg of rivers. Its just a pity that all the good parts are in the first three miles of a seven mile section from the A382 bridge near Chagford to Steps Bridge. The first three miles is a gorge section which, at low water, is an almost continuous boulder garden with a lot of careful navigation required to avoid mishap. A little more water would have made this more fun and a lot more water would have speeded up the remaining four miles which were a bit too flat to be worth paddling. It's the wrong combination really being Grade 3 to begin with and then Grade 1, possibly a bit of 2, for all the rest.

So on Sunday we decided on the Dart, also very low, but enough water to make it worth paddling from Newbridge to Buckfastleigh. Much bumping and scraping. Even the last drop of Tripple had more rocks in it than I remember. Still, after the driest winter for many years I suppose we were lucky to be able to paddle at all.

Martin Sanders

From the Press

"We were flabbergasted when we first discovered what was going on at the sewage works" Cliff Satherley of the Motueka Community Board told reporters in Auckland, "because it defies all logic. It should be obvious to everyone that sewage ponds are unsuitable places for recreation, but we've found canoeists and kayakers there at weekends, paddling their way through the untreated slurry, and even some foolhardy swimmers diving into the filth. You'd think that the smell alone would be enough to keep people away, but we also have barbed wire fences and locked gates to dissuade them. Yet people keep breaking in there to swim, kayak and picnic, in spite of the danger to health. The council have said they will erect more warning signs at the site, but really, you'd think common sense would prevail"

New Zealand Herald 30/6/05

COACHING

CST 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.

The dates for the 1 day courses are:

May 7th June 4th July 2nd August 6th September 3rd

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.

Cadet Leader

Are you 13yrs and over and would be interested in a challenge ?
Then cadet leader will be right up your street

First meeting is booked for 7.30pm on 28th March 2006
For more info please ring Lisa Wardle on 01252 511813

POOL & POLO

Session times remain the same but note changes to Polo.

1st session: 6.00 to 6.40pm. Polo. On the first pool session of the month this will be to full BCU rules with pushing in etc. The second session of the month will be modified "Youth" rules which is less aggressive and suitable for younger members of club, though adults can join in to make up teams numbers or assist at poolside.

2nd session: 6.40pm to 7.20pm. Training / fun play.

3rd session: 7.20 to 8.00pm. Training.

Please, please remember to thoroughly wash out your own boat before taking it into the pool area. Make sure that you take all your property home afterwards.

Those who wish to attend please let me know via e-mail:

Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com

YOUTH

Sinkers & Swimmers and Flyers too!

Not one, not two, but three BCCC teams turned up to contest the Paddlesport Polo event. The Sinkers came out on top with 5 wins from 5 games and a massive 25 goals, 10 more than Reading3 could manage. Flyers managed 5th place and the little ones in the Swimmers team came 8th out of 10 teams. Well done to all the competitors.

We have 3 more events this season:

25 February 06 - Generation Game (dry!), Pangbourne

18 March 06 - Orienteering, Pangbourne

13 May 06 - open canoe sailing, prizegiving & barbecue, Dinton Pastures, Black Swan

We welcome new participants. A small (£2.50) charge is made for each event. The series is open to juniors only - under 16 as of the 1st September 2005.

Just one of the organised winter activities open to younger paddlers, in the meantime don't forget the Hare & Hounds, marathon training, pool sessions and various trips!

See you on the water, Paul J

MARATHON

Marathon Report

Winter training is continuing, ice permitting. Some of the juniors have been to a training day at Elmbridge. They had lectures from some of the big names in marathon racing and practical sessions on the Thames to reinforce the theory. Richard Somerset went too and came back enthusing about warm ups and paddling machines. Expect to see warm ups (which are free) before paddling machines (which are not free) at Mytchett.

The next race in the Southern Region for the Hasler trophy will be on 14th May at Mytchett.

Frank Luzmore K2

Frank Luzmore was the founder member of Richmond Canoe Club and one of the first to paddle the DW in 1949. He formed the DW organising committee in 1950. So Richmond CC hold an annual race in his honour. Traditionally it is held on the first Sunday of January, this year we had another week to recover from Christmas as the first Sunday of January was New Years Day and racing whilst hungover is not to be recommended!

The club entered two crews. Pete Absolom was racing this for the first time having managed to avoid it during his DW trainings in previous years. He got Liz to partner him. Tyson Simons and Chris Absolom raced in 2004 and were coming back for more. Our thanks must go to Margaret Absolom and Brian Gandy who were the support crew. The race is 13 miles from Elmbridge to Richmond down the Thames, 3 portages at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington.

Check in is a chance to chat with all the paddlers you haven't seen for ages. This year was no exception, Yael and Pete Ford were there with Baby Amy aged 6 weeks, a sister for Isobelle. Tyson and Chris had no choice but to paddle in Mens B. Pete and I had the dilemma of Mixed or Veteran class. The lady at check in said I didn't look old enough to be a veteran. Flattery like that will get you an invite to my 40th which is sooner rather than later! We went in the mixed class.

Starts are always interesting. Mens A went off like rockets in a cloud of spray. Mens B was next, there was a pile up, Tyson and Chris getting involved in a 4 boat collision and stuffed into the bank. They survived upright and paddled off now at the back of the field. Juniors and then ladies start before what's left; the Veterans, mixed crews and 2 Canadian crews. No pile up but Pete and I got closer than we liked to a rowing boat, silly whatsits weren't looking where they were going (as usual) and clipped Pete with an oar, before you suggest we should have been further over, this would have put us into the laps of another K2! The fast boats disappeared into the mist and we were left to slog along the Thames with an increasingly strong wind in our faces. The lack of rain meant there was hardly any flow to help us on our way. We crossed the finish line then turned and paddled back upstream. At the briefing we were told it's only 100yds from the finish to the car parking area. Don't believe it. Walking back to look at the results took over 5 minutes!

Richmond CC is currently being redeveloped. Changing rooms are now up some scaffold steps, and the shower block is a temporary one, on hire. Competitors refreshments are in the "shed", a large wooden shed with electric light and fully equipped kitchen. Oh how the other half live!

Results

Mens B winners 1hr 38'15"

Tyson & Chris 1hr57'23" 11th/15

Mixed winners 1hr 43'15"

Liz & Pete 2hr 00'17" 4th/10 (We would have come 3rd out of 3 in the Veterans class)

Liz Murnaghan

Hare and Hounds resultsDec05

Pete&Chris Absolom (C2)	1hr12'30"	10pts
Paul&Andrew Jeffs	1hr09'24"	9
Tracy Rees Clark	1hr08'35"	8
Dave Belbin	51'27"	V
Tina Parsons	55'29"	V
Alan Coleman	1hr07'07"	7
Howard Smith	1hr11'45"	6
M.Lambert&R.Somerset	56'50"	5
Liz Murnaghan	1hr03'25"	4
Naomi&Isobel Smith	1hr08'52"	3
Keith Ambrose	1hr28'45"	2
2 miles	Time Trial Award	
Ruth Smith	20'45"	Bronze
Sarah Murnaghan	27'18"	

Jan06

Naomi&Isobel Smith	59'25"	10pts
Paul&Andrew Jeffs	1hr07'02"	9
Howard Smith	1hr07'10"	8

Chris Absolom	57'45"	7
M.Lambert&T.Simons	55'12"	6
Tracy Rees Clark	1hr07'00"	5
Liz Murnaghan	1hr00'34"	4
Brian Gandy	1hr04'28"	3
Alan Coleman	1hr07'35"	2
Richard Somerset	57'05"	1
Pete Absolom	1hr02'05"	1
Brian&Anne Biffen (C2)	1hr33'05"	1
4 miles		
Jon Mudd(W/hopper)	1hr00'40"	
2 miles	Time Trial Award	
Michael Truesdale	18'13"	Silver
Ruth Smith	19'22"	Bronze
Charles Winnan	23'23"	Blue
Sarah Murnaghan	25'27"	
Arran Steel	26'25"	
Selena Steel	26'25"	
Elliott Steel	27'12"	

Hare and Hounds results are now online, you can check the latest scores and series points at <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/richard.somerset/results.html>

For Sale

Club Knitted hats Limited stock, navy blue embroidered with Club Logo only £3 each. Contact Liz. 01276 514766 If there is sufficient interest I will order more club kit. Hoodies, polo shirts etc.

Holiday Let

3 bedroom (1 double, 1 twin, 1 single + lots of floor space) terraced house in Swansea. A short car or bus ride from the glorious Gower peninsula. Great for surfing, sea kayaking, climbing or cycling. Close to the city centre. Good food shopping and restaurants 5 minutes walk from the house. Sandy beach and beautiful parks near by. Theatres, cinemas, museums, swimming pool and lots more.

£100 per week/ £30 per weekend.

Contact The Biffins on 01252 616692/e-mail brian.biffin@gmail.com

Wanted

Rain, lots of it to fill up the rivers. The whitewater season may be nearly over but the Thames weirs will be worth a visit if it rains, and those longer marathon races will be a bit faster too. Contact www.environment-agency.gov.uk or Floodline 0845 988 1188

Editors bit

My New Year's resolution was to paddle more whitewater. In January I tried, the water was white, of the icy variety and the Usk was the lowest I've ever paddled it. I still had a good time though, and thanks to Anne, I wasn't the only Mum who had left her husband babysitting! I plan to visit some of the local weirs soon and see just what these short boats can do. Meanwhile the canal is handily placed for fitness training and the thrill of going fast.

Have I mentioned the Club marathon yet? Just a reminder that it is on 14th May at the Canal centre, Mytchett. Homemade cake free to all competitors, what a great incentive to paddle!

Copy date for the next issue is 16th June Email articles to me at liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com

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

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) **Lose those Christmas pounds!** 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

NEW! Saturday 2pm Beginners and Improvers to racing Contact Brian Gandy 01252 622630 Starts 7th Jan and will run every Saturday except Hare and Hounds days

Most Saturdays Trip to local weirs or Nene Whitewater Centre Contact Dave Bevan 01276 502524 or Keith Ambrose 01252 523579

Items suitable for younger paddlers are marked with a *

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

A few dates for the calendar.

- Feb06
 18th * Hare and Hounds Contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584
 25th * Paddlesport Challenge Contact Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
 25th Thameside 1 Contact Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766
 26th * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
- Mar06
 4th * Canoe training Brian Biffen 01252 616692
 12th * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
 12th Thameside 1 Contact Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766
 15th * Gerry Rogers talk on Bright Spark See inside for details
 18th * Hare and Hounds Contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584
 18th * Paddlesport Challenge Contact Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
 25th * Canoe trip on Thames Brian Biffen 01252 616692
 26th Royal K1/K2 Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
 26th * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
 30th * River Mole Alan Dressel 01252 615965
- Apr06
 1st/2nd * Yalding Weir slalom Div3/4 Double dave@perception.co.uk
 8th River Barle Dave Mantell 01252 658984
 9th * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
 15th * Hare and Hounds Contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584
 22nd * Nene WWR Contact Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766
 23rd * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
 29th Cardington Weekend Contact Lee Matthews 07950 232193
- May06
 7th * Danson Lake Wavehopper Challenge Contact Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766
 13th * Paddlesport Challenge Contact Paul Jeffs 01252 615412
 14th BCCC marathon Helpers and racers wanted Contact Brian Gandy 01252 622630
 14th * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
 20th * Hare and Hounds Contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584
 28th * Reading Circuit Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
 28th * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
 28/29th * Sandford Mill Slalom Div 3/4 riverloddon@hotmail.co.uk
- Jun06
 3rd-4th * Langham Farm slalom Div3/4 Double
 11th Windsor Vets Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
 11th * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
 16th * Copy date for Next issue of Waterfront liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com
 17th * Hare and Hounds Contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584
 18th * Oxford Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
 25th * Thames Valley Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
 25th * Pool session Contact Keith Ambrose Keith.ambrose@ntlworld.com
- July 9th * Youth Fest at Dorney Lake Contact Paul Jeffs 01252 615412