

Chairman's New Year Note

Let me start by wishing all BCCC members a very happy new year. I'm hoping 2012 really does prove to be a great year both for all of you especially in respect of canoeing but also in your other endeavours.

The big showcase event is, of course, London hosting the Olympics and Paralympics and there is a real chance that the GB team will do well. I know quite a few people, including ourselves, have tickets for the sprint events at Dorney Lake and we have a really strong team here. For the slalom we have a big home advantage with the team practising daily at the new Lee Valley facility. It looks like a challenging course and let's trust they can capitalise on the familiarity with the conditions and the support of the home spectators. I'll certainly be watching this one but, in this case, from the sofa.

I confess to being a little disappointed that we didn't get slalom tickets. Mainly this is because white-water remains my particular passion. In my youth it was slalom. I have strong memories of rehearsing the individual gate moves down the bank and the nerves of being in the start gate before a two minute 'fast and clean' dash down a tricky grade 3 rapid. In my case, often fast but usually not so clean. Some things remain as I'm now more regularly to be seen

almost but not quite not quite acing the line down the river. This is what it's really about, getting out and paddling; not sitting in the armchair watching others doing it (though an evening on YouTube can be massively entertaining).

My own new year's resolution is to get out and do more paddling. I hope that everyone else has similar resolutions. It doesn't really matter what your particular paddling 'poison' is, it just takes a little bit of effort to get out and do it. Granted, sometimes, in the depths of the winter, it does take a little more effort and layer or two of fleece and waterproof. So, this is



where I get to the eventual point of this note. One of the things that I really appreciate about the club is its friendly nature and the real willingness of the small but strong core of our members to involve others in the sport in whatever way they choose to enjoy it.

The BCCC flourishes because of this group of enthusiasts. We are fortunate that we have a strong backbone in the marathon flat water group. Yes, this is competition orientated group but you will be equally welcome to participate, as do I, just for a bit of Saturday fitness or personal challenge in the Hare and Hounds events. Around this are wrapped all the more recreational activities including sea-paddling, open boat trips, pool sessions, white water trips and youth coaching.

So what does it take to make full use of these facilities? First, just that initial effort to reach out and take part, you will find that warm reception. Second, get involved a bit; we are a small club and even modest contributions really lighten the load. Finally, enjoy our location and use it more – the Basingstoke Canal maybe small but it's an absolute gem of a waterway. We sometimes forget but visitors to the club always remark on its beauty.

Given the last remark above, it would be remiss of me not to mention that other gem, our clubhouse. Well, in the last embers of 2011, planning permission for the new clubhouse (integrated with the camping facility) was eventually granted. This presents us with a new challenge for 2012 and onwards; getting this project properly off paper and onto the ground. There will be more on this through the year.

Finally, I really hope to see you all on the water in the coming year. London's Olympic legacy theme is 'participation in sport'. The club will certainly be organising additional events associated with this '2012' idea. So, please, don't just be a spectator in 2012 – get out and participate.

Richard Boreham

SATURDAY MORNINGS.... Race Training and More

Training for racing continues throughout the year and in winter – unless it is icy - Saturday mornings is the most popular session. Whilst the sessions are well supported there is always room for more members to join us. Last Saturday we had 35 out training, of all ages from 11 years to 75 and of all standards from pretty darned fast to”give him another ten minutes and then put the kettle on”. We can help you to get started and the programmes we have will enable you to progress at your pace.

Seriously, it is good exercise, so look in next Saturday and have a chat with us – better still, bring some kit.

And Saturdays are not just the preserve of racing. Why not come along and do your own thing in a GP, sea kayak or Canadian. Speak to other members and go out in a group or speak to Rosie Fox: she has been helping beginners in GP boats on Saturdays and may be able to include you if you need help with your paddling.

Come on – you’ll feel better for it.

Racing contact: Brian Gandy 02152 622630. Rosie Fox 01276 503746.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Our boat house was once a school swimming pool building? I met a former pupil of the school last Summer. He was visiting his son’s family who were camping in the field. He mentioned that he had been a pupil at the school. We talked further and when I said that the pool in the boathouse must have been filled in – he said “oh no, it was above ground – it had a liner and walls to encase it”. He then went on to tell me that the whole thing was built by the staff, students and parents, and that even the steel joints in the roofwork were individually cut from flat sheet and drilled in the school workshop – amazing. Take a look next time you are in the boathouse.
- ‘Waterfront’ was the name first given to the BCCC Newsletter in December 1990. The editor was Yael Chance who that year won the ‘April’s Cup for Fastest Lady’. She has also kindly passed to the current editor some archive copies of Waterfront which make interesting reading. We will see if, with Brian Gandy’s collection, we have a ‘complete set’.

Paul Jeffs

Calendar (last updated 17 January 2012)

2012			
21 Jan	Paddlesport Challenge Polo 2, Willink	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
21 Jan	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
22 Jan	Upper Wye River Trip	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
28 Jan	Paddlesport Challenge Polo 3, Willink	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
29 Jan	Winter Training Day & 5k Race, Longridge (Marathon Development)	Richard Somerset	01252 683584
4/5 Feb	Usk River Trip, the good bits	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
12 Feb	Waterside A Marathon Race	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
18 Feb	Upper Wye River Trip (Hell Hole tbc)	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
18 Feb	Winter Training Day & 5k Race, Norwich (Marathon Development)	Richard Somerset	01252 683584
18 Feb	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
19 Feb	Thameside 1 Marathon Race	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
19 Feb	Pool Session, Odiham	Brian Biffin	01252 616692
26 Feb	Waterside B Marathon Race	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
4 March	Thameside 2 Marathon Race	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
11 March	Waterside C Marathon Race	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
17 March	Paddlesport Challenge Generation Game, Pangbourne	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
17 March	Royal K1/K2 Marathon Race	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
17 March	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
25 March	Waterside D Marathon Race	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
25 March	Paddlesport Challenge Dragon Boating, Wokingham	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
6-9 April	Devizes to Westminster Marathon Race	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
14/15 April	National Sprint Regatta, Nottingham	Howard Smith	01252 341654
21 April	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
22 April	Wey Hasler (out of region but close)	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
22 April	K1 Training Day (water based), Mytchett	Richard Somerset	01252 683584
28 April	Paddlesport Challenge Sprints, Reading	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
28-29 April	Build and Drive your Coracle, Leicester	Brian Biffin	01252 616692
29 April	Lightning Training Day (water based), Mytchett	Richard Somerset	01252 683584
6 May	Basingstoke Canal Hasler, Mytchett	Howard Smith	01252 341654
12/13 May	National Sprint Regatta, Nottingham	Howard Smith	01252 341654
19 May	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
20 May	Paddlesport Challenge Slalom, Mytchett	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
20 May	Southampton Hasler	Carl Veness	01252 684682
27 May	Reading Circuit Race	Carl Veness	01252 684682
3 June	Longridge Hasler	Carl Veness	01252 684682
9 June	Paddlesport Challenge. White Water, Nene	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
9/10 June	National Sprint Regatta, Nottingham	Howard Smith	01252 341654
16 June	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
24 June	Oxford Midsummer Hasler	Carl Veness	01252 684682
1 July	Thames Valley Hasler (Wokingham)	Carl Veness	01252 684682
8 July	Pangbourne. Activity Festival and PS Challenge Prizegiving	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
21/22 July	National Sprint Regatta, Nottingham	Howard Smith	01252 341654
21 July	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
6-11 Aug	Olympic Canoe Sprint, Dorney	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
18 Aug	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
25-26 Aug	National Marathon Championships, Norwich	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
1/2 Sep	National Sprint Regatta, Nottingham	Howard Smith	01252 341654
9 Sep	Pangbourne Hasler	Carl Veness	01252 684682
15 Sep	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
23 Sep	Henley Hasler	Carl Veness	01252 684682
30 Sep	Hasler Finals, Wokingham	Carl Veness	01252 684682
6 Oct	Reading K4	Richard Somerset	01252 683584
20 Oct	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
28 Oct	Banbury Hasler	Carl Veness	01252 684682
4 Nov	Avon Descent		
17 Nov	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
25 Nov	Ross Warland Memorial Challenge, Banbury	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
9 Dec	Basingstoke Canal Challenge	Howard Smith	01252 341654
15 Dec	Club Hare and Hounds	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
26 Dec	Boxing Day Paddle, Crookham Wharf	Charles Hicks	01252 850657