



Waterfront



Issue 126 **The quarterly newsletter of the Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club**

July 2011

From the Chair

Welcome to summer 2011 with BCCC.

I would like to pass my thanks to Brian Gandy for his work as Waterfront editor. Brian, who is also the club treasurer, has now handed the editor post to Paul Jeffs.

'Frenetic' I think is the best word to describe the club's activities over the last 3 months!

- PaddlePower and numerous training courses have been and are being held. With the warm weather the club has been inundated with training requests – always a good sign.
- Many trips have taken place across most canoeing disciplines. See the trips page (<http://www.b3c.org.uk/trips/>) for details of past and future trips.
- The club again hosted this year's Hampshire Games with Liz M organising a slalom event.
- Pool sessions during summer – whatever next!

I am pleased to report that the picture gallery section of the club website is in full swing once again. Our resident photographer, Garry 'Bailey' Winckley, has provided some fantastic shots both over and under the water! See <http://www.b3c.org.uk/galleries/>.

We have had a setback in the new facilities project. For those not familiar with the project, the BCCC in association with the Basingstoke Canal Authority have submitted a planning application for a new building on the Mytchett site to house BCCC changing and shower facilities in addition to toilet and additional showers for the BCA campsite. In parallel with the building application, the BCA have submitted a planning application to extend use of their field to accommodate more campers. The planning applications were reviewed by Surrey County Council in May. The outcome is that SCC require a 'bat survey' to be carried before planning permission will be considered. Optimistic estimates for completion of the initial survey suggest end of October 2011. The following is an extract from the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society's newsletter:

"Attempts to increase income have, so far, failed to produce any significant results. The best short term prospect for the BCA was to upgrade the camping field at Mytchett to boost income from caravans and campers. This would have involved the construction of a new amenity building which would have also served the Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club. However, this project is now delayed for several months because the Surrey Wildlife Trust is insisting on a bat survey as a condition of its support for the planning application.

This is an excellent example of a really promising income-generating project which is being frustrated on what we believe to be spurious grounds. We make the point that without the additional income, the canal will gradually fail and, with it, the SSSI. It is dispiriting to see that the wildlife interests do not appear to recognise this essential fact."

In early July the club piloted the use of a swimming pool at Yateley school. That pool has advantages to BCCC members as it is closer to most, lower cost and is a larger pool. Unfortunately, it is undergoing refurbishment now until November 2011 so we will continue to use RAF Odiham's pool until then at which time we will review the situation.

The club continues to do well in the flat-water racing 'Hasler' series. BCCC is currently 3rd in the southern region with two more rounds to go. The top 4 clubs in each division go through to the national final.

We are looking for volunteers for this year's Basingstoke Canal Challenge on 11th December. If you are interested please contact Brian Gandy.

I hope to see you on, and possibly in, the water.

Alan Ebbage, Chairman

www.b3c.org.uk

It is a site to see

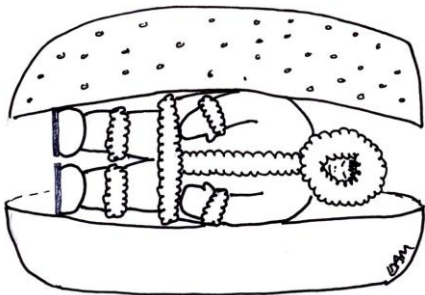
Go on, have a look now!

IMPORTANT NEWS – BARN DOOR CODE

“The door code for the barn will be changed on Friday 22nd July”. It will be circulated to members that weekend. Please contact Lee 0780 9628699 or Liz 01276 514766 if you need the number on Friday night or Saturday morning. The rules for using Club equipment can be found here <http://www.b3c.org.uk/docs/Boat%20usage%20policy%204.11.pdf>

THE THREE-STAR – IT IS A CHANGING

The ‘new’ BCU three-star award for whitewater kayak is a very different award to the old traditional flat-water-only based award. This new award is very much about giving paddlers the skills and basics to take part safely in moving water trips. It includes practical whitewater skills, experience of moving water journeys, and yes, you need a roll...



Eskimo roll....

Everyone excelled in the training on the Saturday and certainly had fun doing far more than the three star requires - with ace surfing, flaring as well as tail squirts from those whose boats have tails to squirt, moving water rescues and more. We had just enough time to revise all the basics on flat water at the end of the day.

The water rose further on the Sunday. Seven paddlers took the assessment and all passed, complete with mini trip, Eskimo roll, hanging draws, equipment quizzes and more...

Congratulations to Anne Biffin, Nick Boreham, Andrew Jeffs, Jason Ashwell, Jason Dyer, James Taylor and Mike Rees-Clark.



Several club paddlers having been working towards and beyond the three star and we've been using a variety of trips and even some flat-water-training sessions in 2010/2011 to build up their skills and experience. The recent club weekend at Symonds Yat in June was used as both a training session and an assessment opportunity.

The water level rose steadily during the weekend and the Yat was definitely not its normal lazy Summer self.



How did they celebrate? A trip back down the rapid and a surf on the big wave that had replaced an eddy – that's how – brown and white water in the sunshine.

And then a trip to the Tryweryn the next weekend (see the website for the report).

A big thanks to Brian and Liz for doing the assessments. We have more paddlers coming!

Paul J

EDITORS NOTE - WATERFRONT

This Waterfront is much slimmer than you may be used to. It's not because I want more time paddling or because we want to save paper, but very much in recognition that the website is now a faster and better place to put news, articles and much more. If you have special articles for Waterfront offline or articles for Waterfront online, then please send them to me ... via the website of course.

Calendar

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|------------|--|-----------------|--------------|
| 23 July | Reading 5K race | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| 23/24 July | Family Fun Weekend, Mytchett | Rose Fox | 01276 503746 |
| 24 July | Thames Valley Hasler (Wokingham) | Gavin Branch | 01252 641567 |
| 28th July | River Hamble (Pub Paddles No 25) | Liz Murnaghan | 01276 514766 |
| 31 July | Cardiff White Water | Richard Boreham | 07801 839621 |
| 7 Aug | Tonbridge Hasler | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| 20 Aug | Club Hare and Hounds | Gavin Branch | 01252 641567 |
| 20 Aug | Marsport 5K | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| 21 Aug | Medway Marathon | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| 21 Aug | Club Shindig (For all members) | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| 27/28 Aug | National Marathon Championships, Worcester | Gavin Branch | 01252 641567 |
| 3/4 Sept | HPP Whitewater (Nottingham) weekend | Mike Rees-Clark | 01252 816207 |
| 10/11 Sept | Sprint Regatta, Nottingham | Howard Smith | 01252 341654 |
| Mid Sept | Tryweryn White Water trip (date tbc) | Jason Ashwell | 07967 386225 |
| 17 Sept | Club Hare and Hounds | Gavin Branch | 01252 641567 |
| 18 Sept | Pangbourne Hasler | Carl Veness | 01252 684682 |
| 25 Sept | Henley Hasler | Carl Veness | 01252 684682 |
| 25 Sept | Deadline -copy and dates for next Waterfront | Paul Jeffs | 01252 615412 |
| 2 Oct | Hasler Final, Bedford | Gavin Branch | 01252 641567 |
| 9 Oct | Elmbridge Hasler | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| Oct - tba | Club Hare and Hounds | Gavin Branch | 01252 641567 |
| 14 Oct | AGM, Frimley Baptist Church | Liz Murnaghan | 01276 514766 |
| 16 Oct | Cokethorpe Marathon race | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| 23 Oct | Windsor Hasler | Carl Veness | 01252 684682 |
| 30 Oct | Banbury Hasler | Carl Veness | 01252 684682 |
| 12 Nov | Canoe Orienterring, Mytchett | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| 19 Nov | Club Hare and Hounds | Gavin Branch | 01252 641567 |
| 27 Nov | Ross Warland Challenge, Banbury | Brian Gandy | 01252 622630 |
| 11 Dec | Basingstoke Canal Challenge | Howard Smith | 01252 341654 |
| 17 Dec | Club Hare and Hounds | Gavin Branch | 01252 641567 |

www.b3c.org.uk

Where you can keep up-to-date with all the trips and events