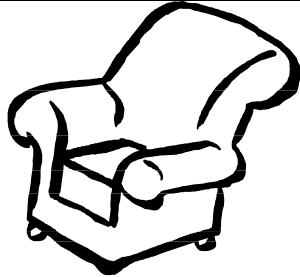




# Waterfront

Issue 98

May04



## From the Chair...

It has been a very busy time since the last news letter, with paddle power doing very well over the winter especially in the polo, and not forgetting Liz Murnaghan for taking part in the Devizes to Westminster (Very Well Done)

This club couldn't run without a dedicated team of club members working behind the scenes from helping clean out the boat store to organising events. My continuing thanks to you all, sorry I can not help more.

As the summer season has just started at Mytchett, it's not only Paddlepower, boats are available to everybody, that includes the parents please give it a try.

If you wish to do a star course this year please contact our training team.

Plans are a foot to build toilets and showers next to our boathouse and talks are underway with the Canal Authority, more news as and when it happens.

Please don't forget to look in the diary for events and trips this includes Cardington white water taster weekend on the 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2004 places still available please contact myself.

Any questions please contact me or one of your committee members

Happy Paddling

Lee Matthews

## Club Marathon

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the Canal Centre. Races start at 12 noon.

Please do come along - we welcome your support.

**Why not come and race in the main event?** Contrary to some beliefs these races are open to paddlers of all abilities and ages from 7+ to 70+. It's only four miles to Ash Wharf and back. Speak to Charles Hicks or Brian Gandy if you want more information.

**Or compete in the Fun Race?** Any boat, single, double, kayak or canadian. Just two miles to Great Bottom Flash and back.

**Or simply come and give our team your support** and see what goes on at a Marathon event.

We hope to get 100+ paddlers so there will be plenty of action.

Charles Hicks  
01252 850657  
Brian Gandy  
01252 622630

## Keycode

Just as you had learnt the old number, (and could even do it in the dark!) it is time to change the door access code. Lee will change the number on 8<sup>th</sup> June. Ask him or Dave Bevan for the new code from this date

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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

## BCCC Sponsored Midsummer madness Relay Paddlethon along the length of the Basingstoke Canal 20<sup>th</sup> June Help raise funds for your club!!

The sponsored event is planned for the 20<sup>th</sup> June. We need everyone to help with this fundraising. Although 32 miles in length this event is a relay event so anyone joining us on the water can be sponsored with all unsuspecting punters sponsoring the club and not the individual to complete the distance.

The event starts at both ends of the canal with the aim to meet up at Mytchett with some fun and mayhem and a BBQ from 4.00 p.m. on the day. See the Chairman getting very wet! Watch the 200m race with five Eskimo rolls! Richard Somerset thinks he can win this race. Prove him wrong!

We will use two floating ducks as our relay batons with one starting at each end of the canal. We will aim to keep them on the water for most of the journey although occasional fledgling flights will be allowed at portages. The ducks are called Titania and Oberon. We aim to unite them together at Mytchett for their own version of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Nights Dream".

The key difficulty is the route from Woking to Mytchett due to the number of locks and portages. The flat-water racers have agreed to take on this section of water. The other section runs from Greywell Tunnel to Mytchett with an approximate distance of 20 miles. This section will be split up in to smaller more manageable sections.

### Woking to Canal Centre

Heather Vale to Kingshead Bridge "Flat water specialists"  
Kingshead Bridge to Canal Centre "Flotilla B/Paddlepower 1"

### Greywell to Canal Centre

Greywell Tunnel to Colt Hill Warf "Canadian" - Three men and a dog!  
Colt Hill Warf to Barley Mow Bridge "Canadian" - Poling and pulling!  
Barley Mow Bridge to Crookham Road Warf "General purpose boats"  
Crookham Road Warf to Reading Road Warf "White water boats"  
Reading Road Warf to Farnborough Road Warf "Lightning's and Flat water boats"  
Farnborough Road Warf to Ash Warf "Canoe Polo on the move"  
Ash Warf to the Canal Centre "Flotilla A/Paddlepower 2"

We will need to co-ordinate paddlers and all the sections included above will have an adult to lead and support.

Anyone can raise money. The sponsored forms accompany the newsletter and further forms will be available through e-mail or at the clubhouse. All money collected will be used for the much-needed boat and equipment fund.

Anyone can paddle. All general paddling associated with the club will be represented.

#### Things to do

1. Take a sponsored form! There is one included with this newsletter! Start collecting money; "Grab a Granny", "Con your relations, friends and colleagues". Do anything legal to get someone to sponsor some money!!
2. If you are under 18 please gain parental consent and ask them to support and sign your sponsor forms.
3. Book a place on one of the sections at the boathouse. Section Leaders, times and places to meet will be publicised for each section. We will need to start at Greywell Tunnel at 6.00 a.m.!!
4. You don't have to be a paddler. It's the club being sponsored, not the individual! Take a sponsor form and raise some money to support the much harassed boat fund.
5. All money needs to be collected and passed on or sent to Alan Small our Treasurer by the 31<sup>st</sup> July. Alternatively we will collect money from anyone on a Tuesday Club night.
6. Please join in. The aim is to have some fun and to raise some money!!

## Your Canoe club needs you!!

Jon Mudd

### Longridge to close!

As a result of flood damage in the recent past, insurance costs and the trustees personal liability the Scout Association is likely to close this popular Thames side centre. But all is not lost there are moves afoot to register it as a charity and, hopefully, continue its good work. The club has written upon your behalf to support this venture but if you feel you wish to write personally then contact the clubs secretary and he will forward you the details of who needs to know of your support for Longridge.

### River Access.

Anyone who paddles has a duty to log on to: [www.riveraccess.org.uk](http://www.riveraccess.org.uk) and write a letter to his/her MP. Heavy stuff but did you know that 98% of the rivers in this country have NO ACCESS for the public! If that is not enough to emigrate I do not know what is! This very good web site has a lot of useful information related to this campaign and to make your job and duty as a paddler easier there are templates for you to make writing your letter a dream.

The MP for N.E.Hampshire is:	The MP for Surrey Heath is:	The MP for Aldershot is
The Rt. Hon. James Arbuthnot	The Rt. Hon Nick Hawkins	The Rt. Hon Gerald Howarth
House of Commons	House of Commons	House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA	London SW1A 0AA	London SW1A 0AA

I have my reply from the House of Commons already, framed and on my wall! Richard Somerset

### Slalom.

The Slalom course has been dismantled at Fleet Wharf and so passes a Fleet landmark and part of the rich heritage of the BCCC. Since our move to Mytchett the last remaining poles and gates were seldom used and becoming a hazard to passing boats. David Millett and I contacted those owners of the trees that we could to thank them for their and their trees support for our slalom course for all these years.

### Lightning strikes Mytchett!

You will be very shortly witnessing a strange phenomena at Mytchett Wharf. The sight of four of our youth members paddling at great speed if not lightning speed along the canal. There is however a speed limit of 5 mph for all powered craft on British canal but not PaddlePowered craft! Lightnings are an ideal introduction to flat water racing and can equally be used for touring by paddlers of weight up to about 9 stone (60kgs). These boats have been half funded by a BCU and Lottery Youth fund and is fully supported by the BCCC's committee. The aim of this exercise is to encourage more people, especially young people, to this end of the sport in which we as a club and Great Britain as a country have for many years been very successful Internationally. The clubs own Hasler series Marathon event is on Sunday 23rd May and this includes a Lightning event but we only have four of these boats so book your boat for that day ASAP to avoid disappointment!

## TRIPS AND TOURS

If you can paddle you can organise a trip! There is no mystical black art to organising a day trip or 'tea shoppe tour'. It is quite simply a matter of:

- (1) Find a river
- (2) Read a map
- (3) Nominate a day
- (4) Tell others!

Clearly there is slightly more to it than this but not much. The BCU yearbook lists the access officers who will be only too pleased to help and suggest a trip. Books abound and web sites such as <http://www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk/> will tell you when and where you can paddle with egress points and possible hazards. Other club members will surely help and no doubt joining you for the trip. Plenty of advanced notice of your trip will encourage a good number to come along. Choose a distance most suitable for you and your family and for safety encourage a suitable level of coach to come along as well.

### Cardington

Dates for 2004 are May 15th/16<sup>th</sup>

Single Day Cost: £ 15.00

Weekend Cost: £ 20.00

Please send your "We want to come" emails to Lee Matthews ([dusty.leemathews@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dusty.leemathews@tiscali.co.uk)) and/or fill in the sign-up register that will be available at the pool session and boat house

What's Cardington?. An introduction to whitewater on an artificial course. Controlled, safe and lots and lots of fun. And this year, NOT the same time as the club's own marathon.

### Henley

The Henley Regatta is the first week in July. This year we will go on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> which is finals day. Meet at Wargrave 11am .Further details from Debbie Carpenter 01252 877982 The fireworks are Saturday night.

## **Summer Camp in France: 26 July – 13 August 2004**

This year, after a roasting in the south last year on the River Tarn, we have decided to keep further north. So we have booked a campsite at Beaurainville on the River Canche, which is only an hour and a half's drive from Calais and about 20 km inland from Le Touquet. The site is beside the Beaurainville Canoe Club's slalom course, which is Grade 2/3, and available for all to use. The rest of the river is mostly Grade 1-2, pretty and fast flowing rather than awesome, although there are a couple of obstacles to avoid. There are three good half-day trips available on it, between Hesdin and the sea at Etaples. We'll be taking bikes as well as canoes and kayaks, since there is the lovely countryside of the "seven valleys" to explore. The area is also full of tourist attractions to visit. Surfing and kite flying could be available (weather permitting) on Berck Plage or thereabouts. Altogether a varied and attractive package. We usually do a mixture of self-catering on the site, occasional collective barbecues, and meals out in nearby restaurants. The time is usually spread fairly evenly between canoeing, cycling and being tourists.

Most of us will be in tents, but there will be at least one caravan and one or two camper vans.

If this kind of holiday appeals to you, for all or part of the time above, or just a day visit, please let me know and I will make any necessary arrangements with the campsite.

Charles Hicks, 01252 850657 or  
[hicks.canal@btinternet.com](mailto:hicks.canal@btinternet.com)

### **Sloe Paddle**

Chris Belton will be running a Sloe paddle along the Basingstoke Canal. The date is fixed (so far, may change if they are not going to be ripe) for the 10 October 2004.

### **Tideway**

It is intended to do Woolwich to Tower Bridge late summer / early autumn but the date depends on Tides and Safety Boat availability. Max. numbers will be 6 to 8. If there is more than 8 it will have to be 2 Parties and 2 Safety Boats. If you are interested contact Chris Belton [chris@viscom.co.uk](mailto:chris@viscom.co.uk)

## **COACHING**

*Merry Williams is the coaching coordinator he can advise you which courses are available. Contact him on*  
[merry.williams@nokia.com](mailto:merry.williams@nokia.com)

## **YOUTH PADDLING Update 2004**

There's plenty of opportunity for our younger paddlers to paddle in 2004:

**Paddlepower** – we are continuing with the successful Paddlepower scheme this year, with more activities and more choice! Based mainly around Tuesday evenings at Mytchett, this gives youngsters a range of paddling experience and skills. This year's program will include some star courses, but this is only a small part of a varied program intended to give youngsters a grounding and foster continued interest in paddlesport. There will be a charge for each youngster taking part covering the April-September season. Paddlepower evenings run from April 20th through to September 20th this year.

**Want to try? Not ready for Paddlepower?** – For youngsters not quite capable enough for Paddlepower yet or for those who want a taste of paddling and have not yet joined the club; we have free paddle sessions Tuesday evenings. This is dependent on boat availability and numbers. Non-members must register and are limited to two 'taster' evenings.

**Youth Events** – we are organising youth-focused events within the club. A good example is Cardington White Water (15-16 May) and the youth and family barbecue (two dates to be arranged). In addition, there will be some weekend youth paddles organised. Look on the notice-board or website for events.

**Fast Boats** - If you're interested in fast boats you can always find someone from the flat water racing crew to introduce and help you with regular training, even events. We will also be getting some Lightning kayaks specifically designed for youngsters in May this year. These will be used by the Paddlepower program on Tuesdays as well as available for training and events.

**Southern Region Paddlesport Challenge** – BCCC takes part in the BCU's Southern Region Paddlesport Challenge, a fun series of events held typically from September through to May. Events cater for a wide age and skill range and vary from marathon through slalom to water polo. The club has two teams – the Otters and the Platypii. The final event of the 2003/04 season is the prize giving and fun day – details to come. We welcome new participants. A small charge is made for each event.

**Other Club Events, Activities & Training** – Don't forget that youngsters are encouraged to take part in all club activities. Good examples of this are the regular Hare & Hounds (selected Saturday mornings) and the Club's own marathon (23 May). Look on the notice-board or website for events. Consult the event organiser in each case for guidance on age or skill level.

**Other Youth Activities** – We try and keep you up-to-date with other youth activities in the local area. Examples include local slaloms, course etc. Make sure the Youth Coordinator has your email address to receive information.

**Pool Evening** – Two pool evenings are held at RAF Odiham pool every month through most of the year and are well attended by youngsters. Evenings are split into 3 sessions. The first session is aimed at youth polo – with and without paddles (ideal for gaining confidence). The second two sessions are ideal for training and practising skills such as capsizing, rescues and rolling; and we have qualified coaches on hand to guide you. If you want to

learn something ask! Book with the Pool Coordinator beforehand.

**Family Paddles** – BCCC is a family canoe club. You are encouraged to paddle with your family. Many members take the advantage of our club house site to paddle the canal on Saturday mornings during the summer.

**Volunteers and Availability** – the club relies entirely on volunteer coaches and helpers to run events and training. We welcome offers of assistance. We will always do our best to arrange events efficiently and safely, but we may have to limit numbers, cancel or postpone events for safety or supervisory reasons. We are a family club not a youth club, so parental involvement is always required. For further information come along and see us at Mytchett Canal Centre on Tuesday evenings or contact Paul Jeffs, Youth Coordinator, 01252-615412, [pjeffs@ntlworld.com](mailto:pjeffs@ntlworld.com)

### **2003 BCU Southern Region Paddlesport Challenge**

#### **OVERALL RESULTS FOR THE SEASON (DRUM ROLL)!!!!**

- 1st - Pangbourne on 1710 points
- 2nd - Reading A on 1650 points
- 3rd - 1st Reading Sea Scouts A on 1610 points
- 4th - Black Swan on 1580 points
- 5th - BCCC Otters on 1080 points**
- 6th - 1st Reading Sea Scouts B on 1000 points
- 7th - Banbury Buccaneers on 630 points
- 8th - BCCC Platypii on 610 points**
- 9th - Banbury Bravehearts on 230 points
- 10th - Reading B on 160 points

WELL DONE OTTERS AND  
PLATYPII!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

There will be a prizegiving event AND ACTIVITY DAY at Black Swan - I will advise detail as soon as I have them. Michael and Andrew enjoyed a similar event last year. So - come and collect your MEDALS!!!!

Paul Jeffs Youth Coordinator

### **The river Mole trip on the 28 March 2004 8 mile trip.**

Canoeists on trip **Joshua Bevan, Richard Somerset, Martin Saunders & Dave Bevan**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 4 of us (members of the BCCC) went on a trip on the River Mole. Four whole hours we spent on the water, stopping for lunch, taking on a few weirs, fast water & some shallow, rocky parts.

We set off at Brockham and finished at Leatherhead. We went on paddling for at least

one hour when we arrived at Dorking Weir, we got out and went to look, Martin, Richard and Dad went over; the weir was just like Theale but at least five times bigger (you don't have to go over). After the weir there was a small sandy area, just like a mini beach where we stopped for lunch for about half an hour.

After we set off we came across one more weir and some shallower, rocky parts. After three hours we got to Leatherhead, we had to break out so we could stop, so we got out and changed and then we went home.

Joshua Bevan.

### **Limericks**

Said a polo player once at Torquay,  
"A chance for a goal I see"  
With his paddle drawn back,  
He gave a great "THWACK!!!!!"  
And leveled the score in Dundee.

There once lived a man from Crewe,  
Who decided to build a canoe,  
He went to the river,  
A found, with a shiver,  
He hadn't used waterproof glue!

Said a foolish young paddler called  
Clout,  
This bath's a fine boat, there's no doubt.  
I'm sure I shall win,  
And if water gets in,  
There's a plug hole to let it all out!

There was a young man of Devizes,  
Who's ears were of different sizes,  
The one that was small,  
Was no use at all,  
But the other won paddling prizes.

Chosen and adapted by Helen Mudd

## MARATHON

### Waterside B

“Did you drive through the snowstorm?” was the question on everyone's lips as we met in the carpark at Newbury. The next concern was ice, Pete had told us about ice on the canal at Mytchett as he collected the K2 from the barn. Our previous Tuesday night session had been cancelled due to the canal being frozen. One mad individual (She shall remain nameless) had been out portaging her boat for 3 miles. Brian could remember 7 miles of portaging with Lis Coleman on a Waterside race back in the early 1990's. Charles could remember a 10 mile portage. Naturally we were all very sceptical of the organiser's claims that he hadn't seen any ice on the canal.

Waterside B is a 17 ½ mile round trip between Newbury and Aldermaston. Less chasing for the support crews to do and you see fellow paddlers at the turn as well as if they pass you en route.

Charles was bankside pointing out the shortest portage routes which was very helpful. The canal section at Aldermaston gets a bit bouncy with crews going both ways in the narrow section. When I saw Pete here he didn't look too happy and he confessed later to taking a swim. (And he did it without my help!)

Results were up quicker this time, still no pots but a lovely chocolate cake from Stella Gandy.

### Waterside C

First question today was “Where's Tyson?”. The great double act was no more, Chris had got a job in Shrewsbury leaving Tyson to paddle on his own. No Tyson = No cake, since it was his turn, so you can understand everyone's concern.

Lis Coleman was busy chasing everyone to sign Tyson's birthday card. Paddling 23 miles is one way of celebrating your 17<sup>th</sup>. We saw Tyson in the queue for entries.

In the tunnel .....



The queue for the Portaloos was massive so I left later than intended. The first stretch from Pewsey is uphill and then there is the tunnel. If you haven't been there before then no words can describe the experience, and if you have, grit your teeth and get on with it! For me, despite my cool logical head choosing the Club's most stable K1 my heart was pounding, nerves shredded by the sight of a swimmer at the

entrance (Cue National Lottery style finger “It could be you!”) and legs turned to jelly. This time, Pete wasn't sat behind me to paddle me through, I had to do it myself. The K2 behind me knew the rules (Strictly no overtaking in the tunnel) and was patient enough to wait while I paddled slowly through. Pete wasn't so lucky, he got rammed from behind and had a swim.

By Great Bedwyn I realized that I had leak, emptying the boat at every portage slowed me down, despite supporters telling me that I was catching Brian, he remained a yellow dot in the distance. We didn't quite get a formation finish for Richard, sat at Newbury lock, though we all finished within about 5 minutes of each other.



Carol had excelled herself on the cakes. Not content with just one she had made 3, just to be sure there was enough. Tyson declined another singing of “Happy Birthday”, he had been serenaded in the tunnel. He got a huge cheer and round of applause for 1<sup>st</sup> place in Junior K1. Well done!

### Waterside D

Then there were three. The start was early, very early. Pete had furthest to come and he got up at 3am! The clocks had changed too so it was 2am on your body clock. The course is 11.8 miles longer than race C through open countryside. There is only a low bridge and some reeds to act as diversions. No portages, this section is not called “The Long Pound” for nothing.



The race progressed pretty much as expected, except it was Liz's turn to swim in the tunnel following a clash of blades with a K2. Pete had a clear run through. Brian paddled past the swimmers and didn't see them in the dark. He thought I was “In the bushes”. I caught him later and put him right! We all achieved times under 7 hours for the race so it was smiles all round (or was that grimaces of pain?). A well

matured fruit cake was our reward, though Liz got pots for 1<sup>st</sup> lady in D and the series. If there was a pot for Vet K1 team we would have won that too, no one else was mad enough.

### Thameside Races

These two races are by Reading Canoe Club and are considered to be part of the "classic" build up to the Devizes to Westminster canoe race. They are not however as popular as the longer Waterside Series of races run by Newbury Canoe Club. Over 400 paddlers turned up to sample 13 miles of Kennet and Avon canal between Great Bedwyn and Newbury (Waterside A), only a third of that number thought the 12 mile journey from Aldermaston to Reading worth turning out for. It may be because Newbury CC fix nice weather for their races while Reading include icy winds and hailstorms with theirs.

Brian and Stella Gandy very kindly offered to be my support crew for these races. We turned up very early at Aldermaston station. Yael and Pete Ford were there with baby Isabelle. Pete was racing. The lower section of the Kennet and Avon canal is more twisty than the upper section and there are a couple of low bridges to contend with. There is one of the original turf sided locks (restored) to portage, the rest are the familiar brick lined locks. The wind was in my face all the way down the canal. Brian and Stella met me at Tyle Mill and Fobney. The portage routes had changed slightly since Brian raced this in the 90's. Approaching Reading it was interesting peering into peoples back gardens. A good view of decking and weeds! Did the owners of the hammock think the weather was about to warm up or was it left over from last year? I was concerned about paddling through the Oracle shopping Centre, I'd seen it tanking through here but conditions on the day were easy. Down at Kennet mouth under the bridge it was a little more hairy. Into standing waves and the teeth of a gale, onto the Thames with strong side winds to Caversham, then the familiar stretch to Reading CC.

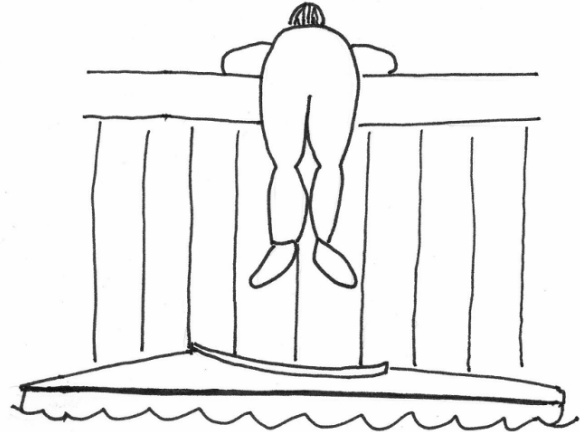
Two weeks later there was a big turn out for the run down to Marlow. The Marathon Racing Committee had suggested that all the good paddlers turn up – and they did!

There are two massed starts, one for slow paddlers and the faster ones a bit later. "Slow" is a bit of a misnomer here, I think it means anyone who is not in the national squad, because at the start everyone disappeared into the distance very quickly. Everyone that is except me, 2 Canadians and a couple other paddlers in touring boats.

We started in sunshine, by Wokingham waterside Centre I was feeling rather hot, by Sonning Lock the skies had turned grey and within a mile I was being battered by hailstones. This eased to cold rain and my glasses fogged up. Debbie had turned up to cheer me on and I heard her at Shiplake! My first meeting with support crew was at Marsh Lock, Henley. This

has rather a high get in, I dropped the boat into the water then lying on my stomach dangled my legs over the edge, praying that the boat hadn't moved. The Launce is a nice wide, stable boat so getting my weight exactly on the centerline isn't critical.

### The high portage



The next scary moment was at the end of the Henley straight. At the turn for the Div 7/8 marathon course I heard a disembodied voice say "There is a canoeist ahead". I couldn't work out who was talking, two fast K2s had just passed me but I couldn't imagine them needing a commentary. Next came "STOP!!!" and a swish of blades on water, to my right and close enough to touch was the bow of a rowing boat. I got out of their way and my thoughts were less than charitable!

Hambledon lock was just as boily as I remembered from my slalom days. Next onto the famous Hurley weir. No time to stop and play or even defrost the support crew. It's then only a short paddle to Temple Lock, round the corner is Marlow. From Marlow lock you can see the road bridge overlooking Longridge and the finish. I was expecting the finish line to be at the end of the island (Where it is for the Hasler race) but it was actually under the road bridge. I felt I'd missed out, after 18 miles, the race was too short. The most amazing bit however was still to come, there was still hot water in the showers! Strange but true.

Liz Murnaghan

### "That's another box ticked"

So said Liz Murnaghan to husband Adrian shortly after finishing the Devizes to Westminster canoe race on Easter Monday. Not at all the way I looked at it, and I had seen her along most of the course. I thought box ticking was dealing with formalities, something that you just have to get done and the DW is hardly that.

Four days canoeing 125 miles with 76 portages is no formality, nor is all the training and preparation needed for it. If we leave it to the Newsletter Editor herself, we will get at best a modest report on her efforts over the past four months.

First, apart from all the training days regardless of weather, came the Waterside Series. Challenging enough, you'd think. The second race endured with the temperature just above freezing. The third race endured in a howling and very testing gale, plus the Bruce Tunnel and the fourth simply 34 miles and, again that 502 yard Bruce Tunnel. Liz had an excellent series winning the Ladies K1 series prize in a time of 17hrs 22 mins 15 secs.

Then the DW. Starting Good Friday at Devizes, first day to Newbury and then further stages on Saturday and Sunday on the Thames to Teddington. Finally the last 17 miles of the Tideway from Teddington to Westminster. Big river. Small canoe. Fast current. Heavy swell and wash. Enormous courage. Great determination. Steadfast and dependable back-up all the way from Adrian. Excellent time of 22 hrs 52 mins.32 seconds. Hot bath and roast lamb waiting at home and, I bet, a proud Mum, Dad and 3 children.

Didn't take any more than that to tick the box.

Any one going to tick it next year?

Brian Gandy

### Hare and Hounds Results

#### Feb 2004

1 <sup>st</sup> Gerry Rogers & Richard MacGilvray	K2	61.50	V
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pete Absolom	K1	61.35	10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Richard Somerset	K1	59.10	9
4 <sup>th</sup> Tyson Simons & Chris Absolom	K2	56.59	8
5 <sup>th</sup> Brian Gandy & Lis Coleman	K2	63.50	8
7 <sup>th</sup> Alan Coleman	K1	RTD	

#### March 2004

1 <sup>st</sup> Liz Murnaghan	Laance	63.00	10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pete Absolom	K1	59.40	9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Alan Coleman	K1	67.55	8
4 <sup>th</sup> Brian Gandy	K1	62.30	7
5 <sup>th</sup> Tyson Simons	K1	62.35	6
6 <sup>th</sup> Brian Biffen & Anne Biffen	TC2	101.45	5

#### April 2004

1 <sup>st</sup> Tyson Simons	K1	57.25	10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pete Absolom	K1	58.10	9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Brian Gandy	K1	61.40	8
4 <sup>th</sup> Richard Somerset	K1	57.00	7
5 <sup>th</sup> Brian Biffen & Anne Biffen	TC2	90.50	6
6 <sup>th</sup> Lis Coleman	K1	69.15	5
7 <sup>th</sup> Soren Alexandersen	K1	67.35	4
8 <sup>th</sup> Marie O'Connor	K1	78.25	3
9 <sup>th</sup> Mike Alexandersen	K1	RTD	
10 <sup>th</sup> Gitte Alexandersen	K1	RTD	
11 <sup>th</sup> Joe Alexandersen	K1	RTD	
12 <sup>th</sup> Alan Coleman	K1	RTD	
13 <sup>th</sup> Tom Biffen & Nick Cole	K2	RTD	
14 <sup>th</sup> Liz & Sarah Murnaghan	TC2	RTD	

**The flat water racing section welcomes new paddlers of any age and ability. In addition to Tuesday evenings, we meet Thursday evenings (7 p.m.) and Saturday mornings about 9.15. For more info speak to Charles Hicks (01252 850657). We all enjoy it and we think you would also.**

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

## A few dates for the calendar.

NOTE. Events suitable for young people are marked with a \*.

May 04	
15th	* Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
16th	Thames Tour Wallingford to Pangbourne Contact Gill Goodchild 01189 843162
23rd	* <b>BCCC Club Marathon at Mytchett Contact Brian Gandy 01252 622630</b>
23rd	* Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
30th	* Thames Valley Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
June 04	
8th	KEYCODE CHANGE
13th	* Teashoppe tour Contact Debbie Carpenter 01252 877982
13th	* Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
19th	* Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
20th	* <b>BCCC Midsummer Madness See page 2 for details</b>
26/7	Windsor Vets marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
27th	* Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
July	
4th	Henley Regatta Contact Debbie Carpenter 01252 877982
4th	Westel tour 6/12/20 miles from Mytchett
10/11	* National Marathon Championship Contact Brian Gandy 01252 622630
11th	* Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
11 <sup>th</sup>	BCU Thames Tour Contact Peter Beechey 01865 721667
17th	* Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
17th	Reading Vets Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
18th	* Woodmill Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
Aug	
8th	* Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579
15th	Woodmill Vets Marathon Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
21st	* Hare and Hounds Contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657
22nd	* Pool Session Contact Keith Ambrose 01252 523579

### EDITOR'S BIT

Thanks to all of you who followed me (and the Royal Marines) along the Canal and the River Thames at Easter. Your support was very much appreciated. No apologies for the marathon bias, it's all I've been doing for the past 3 months, but it's great to see two articles from our younger paddlers. More please! You will note that the next issue is Number 99. Contributions with an ice cream theme especially welcome. I'd like to stick a "Flake" on the front of the next issue, but I'm not sure how to do that for those who receive "Waterfront" electronically. Happy paddling.

Please forward articles to:-

Liz Murnaghan  
10 Elsenwood Drive  
Camberley  
GU15 2AZ

or E mail:liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com  
The closing date for issue 99. is 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2004

**STOP PRESS****Forest of Dean – River Wye/Symonds Yat**

A Caravanning/Camping/Canoeing trip is planned for the above area over the period of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004 to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2004. This is an informal trip in that you make your own arrangements for whatever period of time suits you (come for one of the weekends or midweek). Campsite contact details and location are below. I will be on-site for the whole period, hence make contact on arrival and canoe trips can be organised as required.

In normal circumstances, the river is 'placid' and gentle flowing for the areas in question. Hence with sufficient supervision (arranged as required), all canoeists can enjoy a good paddle in spectacular surroundings. The rapids at Symonds Yat are Grade 1 or Grade 2 and need a Level 3 coach for any organised playing on the rapids. Hopefully we can encourage one or more of our L3 Club Coaches to come along so trips on this part of the river can also take place.

The Forest of Dean is also renowned as a good walking area with plenty of waymarked routes. Nearby there is Clearwell Caves and many other attractions. You will not be bored!

**Location:**

Forestry Commission Christchurch Campsite, Map reference SO568128

**Booking:**

0131 314 6505

**On-Site facilities:**

Showers, Hot and Cold water, Toilets, CDP, Fresh Water, Electrical Hook-up, Shop and Launderette.

**Costs:**

Sun-Thurs £10.90 per unit per night (inc 2 persons) (units are tents/Motorhomes/caravans)

Fri-Sat £11.50 per unit per night (inc 2 persons)

Additional adults (15yrs+) £3.00

Additional Children (5-14) £1.80

Hook-up £2.50 per night

**Contact:**

David Mantell on 01252-658984 or 07909890629