

# BCU SOUTHERN REGION PADDLESPORT CHALLENGE POLO

**15, 22 and 29 JANUARY 2011**

Wow! What a competition. Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club hosted the Southern Region Paddlesport Challenge polo for the at Willink Pool over three Saturday evenings this January.

6 Clubs, 8 teams, over 40 players each evening and a total of 31 games.

This competition is part of the Southern Region Paddlesport Challenge Series. We use modified polo rules and no paddles to allow a wide range of abilities and ages in to play.



A nail-biting finish had the winners of the competition undecided until the very last two games. Blackwater Valley came first by one point (19 total), followed by Newpang (Pangbourne/Newbury). Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club team A came third with 17 points and 12 goals, ahead of Pangbourne also with 17 points but only 8 goals.



*Some of B3C Team A in action.*

Basingstoke Canal's second team (B), nearly all new to canoe polo, came a creditable eighth out of eight but showed excellent teamwork and put up both excellent attack and defence against strong competition but ultimately scored no goals.



*B3C Team B – At the Goal Line!*

The polo event is restricted to players who have taken part in events in the same season and so some teams had to band together to make joint teams such as Newpang (Newbury and Pangbourne) and Woxford (Wokingham CC and Riverside, Oxford). They actually formed very strong teams!

The final hour on the last evening was used to give all the paddlers some experience using paddles too, with teams picked by size for some fun-only games. Fast or what?

Seriously well done to both teams little and larger.

MANY THANKS also to our referee Lee and thanks to Carl, Mark and Rosie (photos too) for their help too!

The **Paddlesport Challenge** aims to keep our younger paddlers paddling over the winter months and at the same time introduce them to the various forms of paddlesport, both in a competitive and a fun way. We have entered up to 20 youngsters each year over recent years.

Here are the final results:

Place	Team	total points	total goals
1	Blackwater Valley	19	13
2	Newbury/Pangbourne	18	10
3	Basingstoke Canal A	17	12
4	Pangbourne	17	8
5	Reading A	13	9
6	Wokingham/Oxford	11	6
7	Reading B	10	3
8	Basingstoke Canal B	7	0

Paul Jeffs