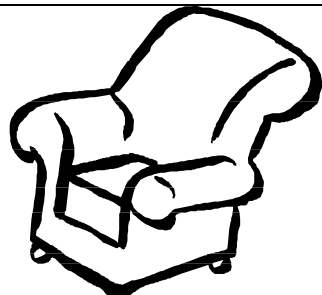




Waterfront

Issue 87

Sept 2001



From the Chair...

What a Summer!
"Oh no," you might say,
"summer isn't over til the first
frost!"

The Summer season I'm referring to is the Tuesday evenings at the wharf, and a very busy, lively season it's been too. Many will, I am sure, heave a sigh of relief now that it's coming to a close at the end of September Mum wringing out little Jimmy's soggy kit after dark, damp car seats; high spirits before bedtime and dad wondering whether all this new kit will see the light of day again next year!

The fishermen and boaters wanting their peaceful wharf back, joggers and strollers having to negotiate the obstacle course we create on the towpath and the few members of our club with tow bars who very kindly ferry the boats for us every week. Yes, there are a few sighs of relief at this time of year! But is it all worth it?.....Just look around on a Tuesday

evening at the many happy smiling faces.

No other answer but a resounding `Yes` will do!

Richard Somerset

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are cordially invited to the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at 8.30 p.m., Friday 26 October 2001 at The Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, and to an American supper before the meeting from 7.30 p.m. The Agenda for the meeting, the report of the Committee and the Accounts will be circulated by 10 October 2001.

Club web site.

Your input and ideas are always welcome. The web site would be an ideal and successfully proven method of selling the boat that you no longer need but could be ideal for a fellow club member or anyone else in the area. Get the details to me and I will post it on the World Wide Web.

The web site can be found at www.bccanoeing.org.uk

Richard Somerset

In This Issue:

	Page
From the Chair	1
Annual General Meeting	1
Web site	1
Committee Members	1
Training	2
Barn dance	2
NEHWACA	2
Surf trip	3
Cardington	3
Italian Connection Part 1	3
Italian Connection Part 2	4
Fine Old Masters	5
Marathon Views	6
Hare and Hounds Review mes	7
Editor's Bit	5
Dates for your Calendar	5
Late stuff	6

Committee Members:

Come to the AGM and find out who your new committee will be. Or why not offer your services and help run the club?



TRAINING

We have had a busy (and successful) year so far for training with 4 'formal' star courses undertaken. Time is running out for this season but do ensure that your needs are fully known so if you have not had the opportunity this year, you will be first in-line for next year.

So far two 1* courses have been run this year with 14 'victims' passing with flying colours. Congratulations go to the following:

Lizzie Byrnes
 Matt Lockey
 Simon Biggs
 Cameron Black
 Daniel Bone
 Frederick Oliver
 Elizabeth Jenkins
 Martyn Small
 Alan Small
 Michael Dale
 Emma Dale
 Kirsty Smith
 Jonathan Johns
 Stephanie Miller

The 3* course has completed the instruction phase and assessments are currently taking place on a phased basis.

I have passed the names of interested 1* Canadian to Brian Biffin who has agreed to run a 1* Canadian course for those six who showed an interest. Brian is about to contact all to arrange the suitable dates for the course in the very near future.

Please keep me informed of your requirements by phoning: (01252-658984), e-mail: (david@djmantell.freeseve.co.uk) or write a note: (David Mantell, 40 Longmead, Fleet, Hampshire, GU13 9TX).

I understand that there are still candidates who have undertaken training back in April/May but have still not been assessed – If you are one of those, please contact Mike Simpson to complete this worthwhile qualification.

A 2* course has just started with 4 candidates. All being well this should be ready for assessment on Saturday 15th September when the 6km trip will also be undertaken.

Don't miss the END OF SEASON BASH

BARN DANCE 17 NOVEMBER

Time: 7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Venue: The Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney

Last year's barn dance was a great night out. We have again booked "Bandwise". Tickets are £7 each which includes a ploughman's supper, tea/coffee. Please bring your own drink and glasses. Members and friends are invited. Tickets are restricted to 100 and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Book now so that you do not miss out on a great night out.

Tickets, available strictly on receipt of payment in full, from Brian Gandy, 32 Florence Road Fleet GU52 6LQ. 01252 622630

NEHWACA

North East Hants Water Activities Centre Association is looking for someone to take over the booking system and the running of NEHWACA as Trix Davey is standing down in February 2002 after being with the Organisation for 20 years.

NEHWACA is a voluntary organisation based at Court Moor School in Fleet, Hampshire that takes Groups canoeing; Youth, Guides, Scouts etc, Disabled and Further Education. We run BCU 1 Star & 2 Star canoe and kayak courses and encourage participants to join local canoe clubs.

If anyone is interested or feels they could assist in any way,

Please phone Trix or Ian Davey 01252 621381 or e-mail trix@davfleet.demon.co.uk

TRIPS AND TOURS

SURFING TRIP

The club held its annual surfing pilgrimage to Gower on 4/5 August. We were sadly lacking in pilgrims this year, there being only the old guard of Richard Somerset, Alan Dressel and myself who braved the rigors of the M4 on a Friday evening in August. This could in part be due to Martin Sanders highly damning, though perhaps accurate, likening of the Hill End campsite to a third world refugee camp in last years surfing trip report.

Sadly Hill End's facilities had improved little since last year but the campsites close proximity to the beach still makes it a winner.

The weather was a little mixed on the Saturday with high tide late in the day, so it was a bracing walk in the morning and a late afternoon paddle on choppy seas. But what made it really worthwhile was the Sunday. The weather was great and the surf was superb! Nice smooth water with good 3 foot rollers coming in. And hot sunshine. You just can't beat it!

The journey home was almost as eventful. A crash somewhere up ahead on the M4 forced us to turn off the Motorway and head up one of the Welsh Valleys.

After a wrong turn we found ourselves on a single track road and at a farmhouse where some profiteering youngsters had set up a toll for their 'sweet fund'. Welsh entrepreneurs in the making.

Paul Kaine

The Italian connection Part 1

When my K2 partner, Martin James rang to say would I like to go to a race I thought well I'm not busy that weekend, why not. The usual questions were asked. When was it? 13th May 10am. How far? About 20 miles. What type of race? Mixed with all different sorts of boats. How many portages? None. Is there a boat available? It would need to be a very stable boat as the race is out into a big lagoon. It may be possible to borrow a boat but it would have no rudder, Martin would try to find a suitable boat. Where? Venice.

Sat 12th May at 7 am, Stanstead airport to fly to Venice Treviso airport with Ryanair. Bus from Treviso into central Venice by 110am. English time. By this time I knew it was not possible to borrow a K2 but Martin was bringing his sea kayak so although I

Cardington.

The sun shone,

The water was plentiful,

It didn't rain too much

No cars were vandalised

We had help to erect & dismantle the course

What more is there to say?

Well a bit more actually!

Very few people swam (unintentionally)

Few paddlers were too embarrassed by capsizing

No one was attacked by swans or geese

The loo did not overflow

The 'Hicks' new tent did not collapse

Tesco's BBQ's did the business

The beer & wine did not run out (Tesco's again)

Alan Dressel 'Ye harred' several times

Maureen Dressel got a bit of a sun tan

The Topo Duo was a hit and did not sink

Several first descents of a moving water environment were made (ooooh!)

Same again next year?

Richard Somerset

would not race I would be able to paddle around the canals.

I was to meet Martin, his wife Tasha and the children, Kit and Anna at our Hotel. I caught a Vaporetti through the canals to the east of the city and walked through the maze of streets to the Hotel. Having managed to open a small door I found myself in a courtyard with Martin who was unpacking his boat. He and his family had driven from Pescara across the causeway to a car park where he had unloaded his boat and paddled through the canals to the hotel. His main problem was portaging his boat through the 90 degree turns in the small streets by the hotel. Tasha and the children soon arrived. We found our rooms then set out to book Martin into the race. We walked along the Riva to San Marco and found the registration. I tried to find a place in a boat but to no avail. We went sightseeing for the rest of the day,

followed by a meal of pasta and wine overlooking the lagoon and sunset.

Sunday morning and Martin carried his boat back through the streets to the canal just behind our hotel. He paddled round to the main bay in front of San Marco. We walked to the start where songs to the saints would be sung. Martin had been issued with a song sheet. The bay was full of hundreds of boats of all shapes and sizes. Lots of Venetian racing boats being paddled by 4 or more gondoliers in full uniform complete with boaters all standing up. One boat had 14 paddlers. There were Canadian canoes and sea kayaks too. We were told 1000 boats with 3000 competitors. Most boats were heading away for the start already on course. Martin set off with them. About 20 mins later the start cannon was fired. The race headed off around islands in the lagoon to the island of Murano. Being a good back up crew we followed on a water taxi. Unfortunately because of the race the fast taxi was cancelled so we went by slow boat. We arrived to watch the slower boats in the race pass by. Everyone was cheering. Martin must have gone. We headed back, the phone rang, it was Martin

The Italian connection Part 2

The letter from Italy.

Having the good fortune to be living in Pescara, Italy for a few years, also gives me the possibility to enjoy some of the local canoeing events.

Amongst the local paddlers I have encountered, one event was mentioned regularly, namely the "Vogalonga" in Venice. This is an annual race of 32Km around the islands of the Venetian lagoon, open to "any boat propelled by oars". Armed with this scant knowledge I went in search of more info, and found an excellent website (www.vogalonga.it) with all the historical details, route etc and so the plan was hatched to take part.

On Saturday 26th May we left home in Pescara at 5.30am for the 500 Km drive to Venice. A few boats along the road suggested we were on the right track, and as we crossed the bridge onto the main island of Venice it was obvious where to launch the boat, just before the car park. Having heard that it gets pretty rough out there, I'd opted for my trusty Nordkapp, favouring security over speed. So, in went all my belongings and off I went in search of the hotel, soon encountering some of the "Vaporetti" or water taxis kicking up a 3 foot wash which vindicated my choice of boat. It felt somewhat bizarre arriving at the hotel carrying my luggage in a kayak, but I arrived before my family using more conventional means. At this point we also met Debbie who had flown in from the

he had finished. We found a water taxi back to the main island and walked through the streets back to San Marco. Martin said he was sat on some steps on an island with a church with a dome. We looked round and saw at least 4 that fitted his description. More phone calls and we found him. A wonderful race. The winner to be decided by ballot in a few weeks.

Martin asked if I would like to paddle back to the car. I jumped at the chance and found myself paddling up the Grand canal while Tasha and Kit very kindly walked back to the hotel for the luggage. Martin and Anna were my back up. The car was packed up and the James family set off for a 5 hour drive home. I walked back to the canals of Venice to a restaurant for a lovely meal. Back to the bus station then a 9.40pm flight to Stanstead arriving home at 1.15 on Monday morning. A weekend to remember.

PS Would anyone like to take a K2 out next year??

Debbie Carpenter

UK for the weekend, unfortunately only to spectate on this occasion. We then spent far too long finding the "well concealed" organization centre in order to pay for my entry. It was at this point that I discovered there were over 900 boats and 3500 people taking part. Reading the directions for the start I was amazed by the level of organisation, and common sense of all boats lining up in an orderly fashion, fastest at the front etc. All I had to do, it seemed, was turn up in front of San Marco between 8.30 and 9.00 on Sunday morning to join in the ritual hymn singing and then we'd be off.

On Sunday morning I cut through a backwater to the San Marco basin, then towards the start. I was mildly surprised at this point to see a number of kayaks and small rowing boats going the other way - had I got it wrong?. When I asked where they were going I was told they were starting early to avoid the "casino" on the official start line when the cannon was fired and 3000+ oars hit the water. At this point I should explain that this is a "non-competitive" race. That is to say, every boat has a number and there is some policing to ensure they follow the course, but all those who arrive at the finish have their number put into a hat, from which one is drawn and declared the winner. Hence, starting a few minutes early is no big deal, organisation is simple and the general atmosphere is very relaxed. So, I paid a quick visit to the start line then turned round and set off 15 minutes early. I was somewhere around the 2Km mark when the gun went off, and for

the next 10Km or so was overtaken by everything from 20 oared Dragon boats, 18 oared Venetian Gondolas, rowing eights, fours, pairs - you name it, it was there! Given the number of boats, I was pleased to only have one "too close for comfort" encounter, with everybody else happily holding back when necessary to avoid collisions.

From the turn at Burano there was a long slog across the open lagoon, then into the Grand Canal of Murano where the first spectators had gathered. Then across to Venice and into the Grand Canal, for the last 3 or 4 Km with thousands of people out to see the spectacle. At the finish, back at San Marco, everybody was announced and given a medal and certificate on the way through, before dispersing to various points to sit in the sun and watch the remaining boats coming in. From my time of 3 ½ hours I suspect the distance is a little less than claimed, or maybe I was catching more wash from the passing boats than I realised. Either way, it was unimportant compared with the pleasure of taking part in such a friendly and colourful extravaganza. For anybody able to get themselves and a boat to

Venice I strongly recommend this event as a unique experience in the canoeing world. See you there next year?

Some practical details:

The event is well organised, with all the info required on the official website. However, entry forms were not available until about 2 weeks before the race. I faxed mine in 5 days before, and paid on the Saturday before. The entry fee of about £6 also gets you a tee shirt, medal, certificate and poster. Getting yourself to Venice is easy, with some good deals from the likes of Ryan Air if you get lucky, and can be done for a weekend. Getting a boat is more difficult and would need more planning. Venice is not cheap, but not too outrageous if you shop around. We found a comfortable room with 4 beds for about £80 B&B, albeit a little way from the centre.

Martin James

FINE OLD MASTERS

The 9th Marathon Racing World Championships were held at Stockton-on Tees, based at the University Campus by the Tees Barrage, on 1st and 2nd September and, in conjunction, the Masters World Cup took place on 30 and 31 August.

Two BCCC paddlers took part in this Veteran event, which consisted of a 22.2 km (almost 14 miles) singles race on the Thursday, and a further 22.2 Km doubles race on the Friday. Races were held in 5-year age bands, the youngest being 35-40years, and the oldest 65+. Charles Hicks and Paul Batchelor made the journey north to take part. Charles survived a bumpy start to finish 4th (and 1st Brit) after the winner was disqualified, out of ten entries, just out of the medals in the over 65 men's event. Paul, in the over 40's, recorded an excellent time of 1h 55mins (7.2 mph), but such was the competition that he finished 24th out of 30 starters.

On the Friday Charles teamed up with Jean Boatman of Pangbourne CC in a double but, as their age group hadn't enough entries, they had to race with the over 55's, and Jean had to race as a man – so they were almost last, and Paul Batchelor with a partner from Reading was almost last as well in his age group!

It was exciting to race against paddlers from 12 countries, and to realise how good they were. The starts were different from the usual somewhat vague start lines familiar to Marathon paddlers, - everyone had a lane, and someone to hold the tail of the boat until the gun went. Very professional. How about next time, having more of a presence from our growing number of veteran paddlers?

(Thanks for reminding us all how old we are getting. Ed)

Katie Hicks

Marathon Views

Well we made the Hasler final at Pangbourne but only just and with a bit of arm twisting from Brian Gandy and his side kick Alan Coleman.

It was a funny second half to the season with the first races affected by foot & mouth then a long gap during the summer holidays it only seems now that the season is underway and these races are for the new season.

Reviewing the year Reading was the first outing for Richard Knowles where he wobbled well and won div 9. Debbie & Jo our div9 K2 came in 4th and we were very unlucky in div 7&8 where we had 6 paddlers only to score 6 points because of the promotion system.

At our own Marathon we had a good turnout and won the event with Simon Forrest (3rd div 4) & Richard Knowles (1st Div 7) both gaining maximum points with Paul Massam coming home in 2nd place in Div 7. Richard Somerset managed a rare feat with a swim off the start and still managing to get promoted to div 5 I think he must like doing things the hard way This was also the first race for Tina Murrey it was only her 2nd or 3rd time in a Racing boat and I'm pleased to say she had a clear round.

Meanwhile back on the river at Wokingham, there was some very competitive racing and our small team found the going rather tough with a couple of swims, and with only a 5th place for Liz & Brian and a couple of 8th places scoring points but with Matt Lockey making his first appearance for the club he scored well in Div 9 helping us to stay in touch with the other teams.

The following weekend we were again racing this time at Woodmill at Southampton (see just like buses you wait ages then two come along) and we seemed to have a better turnout and it was other clubs who were missing paddlers, with a fine 2nd place in Div 7 for Paul Mant these were his ideal conditions as he is our salt water representative, he was closely followed home by Paul Massam in 3rd place .Pots also for Liz and Brian in Div 7/8 K2 and Alan Coleman ,2nd in Div8 K1.) so that brings us to the end of this season.

Also throughout the year there has been several other events where the club has been represented these include:

K4 racing at Reading & Royal (boat A: Pete Absolom, Paul Massam, Brian Gandy, John Holmes. Boat B: Paul Stearn, Simon Forrest, Richard Batchelor, Paul Batchelor)

Sprint Racing at Eton regatta lake (Richard Knowles Simon Forrest and Paul Batchelor).

Vets Racing at Windsor & Reading (Richard Somerset, Charles Hicks Alan Coleman Brian Gandy, and Paul Batchelor).

Masters World Championship at Stockton on Tees (Charles Hicks & Paul Batchelor).

So it's now time to look forward to the new season and hopefully see some new faces and not so new faces racing over the coming weeks.

Already we have raced at Marlow, Pangbourne and Henley.

Windsor Oct 21st

Banbury Oct 28th

K4 race Reading Oct 6th

K4 race Royal Oct 27th

Hare and Hounds Points Table Final Results

Singles		Brian Gandy	16	Doubles	
Richard Knowles	55	J-F Corbett	10	Gandy/Murnaghan	19
Alan Coleman	45	Liz Murnaghan	10	Hicks/Somerset	10
Simon Forrest	39	David Batchelor	9	Murnaghan/Coleman	10
Richard Somerset	38	Lis Coleman	6	Gandy/Coleman	9
Paul Stearn	34	Paul Massom	6	Biffen/Miles	5
Pete Absolom	31	Paul Mant	6	Mant/Mant	5
Paul Batchelor	30				
Charles Hicks	28				
Richard Batchelor	19				

Hare And Hounds

This years H&H were a little disappointing in that the numbers taking part were down on the last few years. So come on all you new members and give it a go, 6miles is not as far as it might sound and it does give you some distance paddling to do through the winter, (There is a 3 mile paddle if you want to try this first) and as a novice you do stand the best chance of winning the championship, you only have to look at this years winner ,Richard who only started paddling last summer. There is also a Touring Canadian trophy which no one even entered this year!

Do any of you regulars wish to comment on the change to the handicap system used last season. Did it work OK? Did it make for closer finishing? Can we improve on it still?

There were some excellent times in both singles and doubles and the majority of competitors improved on their 1999-2000 times.

Many thanks to all of you for taking part as the more paddlers there are on a cold winter morning the easier the course is to do. During the coming season some of the Hare & Hound dates will be changed so they don't clash with important Hasler race dates but any dates will be published in the newsletter to avoid any confusion

Paul Batchelor

Fastest Times 2000-2001 Season

Singles

Club Members

Richard Batchelor	46.32	July01	CLUB TROPHY -Fastest K1
Paul Stearn	49.46	Sept00	Fastest Veteran
Simon Forrest	51.59	July01	
Paul Batchelor	54.02	April01	
Richard Somerset	57.13	Oct00	
Richard Knowles	58.45	Aug01	HICKS TROPHY -Top Single
Charles Hicks	60.41	May01	
Pete Absolom	60.53	Sept00	
Paul Mant	61.30	July01	
Paul Massom	62.38	Nov00	
Alan Coleman	64.00	June01	
Liz Murnaghan	64.27	July01	APRILS CUP -Fastest Lady
David Batchelor	65.29	Dec00	UNDER 16 CUP -Fastest Junior
Brian Gandy	65.53	Feb01	
Lis Coleman	69.15	Oct00	
John-F Corbett	79.58	June01	

Visitors

Tim Middlehurst	46.30	July01	
Paul Tomlins	58.03	April01	
Heather Brough	59.37	April01	
Doug Knowles	60.02	April01	
Anmarie Christianson	67.43	April01	

Doubles

Charles Hicks & Richard Somerset	56.05	Dec00	DAVY TROPHY _Fastest K2
Brian Gandy & Liz Murnaghan	58.01	May01	MILLET CUP -Top Double
Brian Gandy & Lis Coleman	59.51	Sept00	
Liz Murnaghan & Lis Coleman	61.20	June01	
Paul Mant & Felicity Mant	65.13	Nov00	
Brian Biffen & Linford Miles	83.48	Sept00	

Visiting Doubles

Tim Middlehurst & Paul Batchelor	45.27	May01	
-------------------------------------	-------	-------	--

Training Times

Tuesdays 1930 Crookham Wharf
 Thursdays 1900 Crookham Wharf
 Saturdays 0920 Crookham Wharf

Just turn up with some kit and we will find a boat suitable for you.

For any further information ring Paul on 01252 845510 or e-mail batchjp@aol.com

EDITOR'S BIT

Thank you for all your articles, I hope that you enjoy reading them and it inspires you to do something different on the water in the coming months. We have some flatwater tours to look forward to, Debbie says they will be designed for comfort not speed. Alternatively work up a sweat at the barn dance where the only water will be from a tap.

Please forward to:-

Liz Murnaghan
 10 Elsenwood Drive
 Camberley
 GU15 2AZ

or E mail:

liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com
 (Articles preferred in *.rtf - rich text format)

***The closing date
 for issue 88 is 2nd
 December 2001.***

A few dates for the calendar.

Sept	
23rd	Hasler Finals at Beale Park
29	"Teashoppe tour" A gentle flatwater paddle. Debbie Carpenter 01252 877982
Oct	
6th	Reading K4 Contact Paul Batchelor 01252 845510
7th	Pool session at RAF Odiham contact Michael Carpenter 01252 877903
14th	HARE & HOUNDS new date Contact Paul Batchelor 01252 845510
21st	Windsor Marathon Contact Paul Batchelor 01252 845510
21st	Pool session at RAF Odiham contact Michael Carpenter 01252 877903
21st	BCU tour Thames from Henley to Sonning Contact Adventure Dolphin 0118 9843162
26th	AGM see front cover for details
27th	Royal K4 Contact Paul Batchelor 01252 845510
28th	Banbury Marathon Contact Paul Batchelor 01252 845510
Nov	
4th	Pool session at RAF Odiham contact Michael Carpenter 01252 877903
11th	"Teashoppe tour" A gentle flatwater paddle. Debbie Carpenter 01252 877982
17th	Hare and Hounds Contact Paul Batchelor 01252 845510
17th	BARN DANCE to Bandwise see Page 2 for details
18th	Pool session at RAF Odiham contact Michael Carpenter 01252 877903
Dec	
1 st /2nd	River Dart Contact Richard Somerset
2nd	Pool session at RAF Odiham contact Michael Carpenter 01252 877903
2nd	COPY DATE FOR NEXT "WATERFRONT"
15th	Hare and Hounds Contact Paul Batchelor 01252 845510
16th	Pool session at RAF Odiham contact Michael Carpenter 01252 877903
25th	Christmas Day
26th	Boxing Day Paddle at Crookham Wharf 10.30 ish start
Jan	
19	Hare and Hounds Contact Paul Batchelor 01252 845510