



Editor

This edition has a slightly different look – there are not many reports but there are plenty of notices of trips and events coming up. I think that is possibly the way for the future as more and more articles get posted on to the website.

I intend to give up editorship at the end of 2010 so if you would like to consider taking it on, please contact Liz Murnaghan

From the Chair

Congratulations to the BCCC flat water racing team for once again reaching the finals of the Hasler competition after finishing third in the Southern Region. It has been inspirational to see the rapid development of a large number of the team this year. Whilst on the subject of racing...there is plenty of opportunity for budding racers so, if you have a desire to go faster on the water and get fitter at the same time, then why not join us at the boathouse on Saturday mornings from 09:00.

Time for a minor whinge..... too many of our events and training are managed by the same (very small) core of coaches and volunteers. We need more people to provide support, particularly (but not limited to) those with BCU coaching qualifications. If you are interested in volunteering the please speak to Liz Murnaghan, Brian Gandy, Richard Somerset, Paul Jeffs or Brian Biffin. As an example, Brian Biffin needs someone to assist in organising the accommodation for the trip to the River Monnow in November.

Whilst on the subject of coaching, I would like to mention the recent 1 Star course which was planned and run by Rose Fox. This was an excellent example of what can be achieved by a relative newcomer to coaching. Other members with recent coaching qualifications might want to follow the example? Thanks Rose!

The club will soon have more coaches as ten club members will be starting a Level 1 training course in October. Our thanks go to Jason Dyer for organising the course.

Brian Biffin and Paul Jeffs have organised a number of trips this year and the good news is that there is more to come! See the trips page of the BCCC website for more details (<http://www.b3c.org.uk/trips/>).

On 18th September the club held its summer “shindig”. The weather was kind and many of the club’s coaches and other volunteers had a much deserved opportunity to relax and put their feet up. The ‘water games’ were, as usual, a source of entertainment for everyone on the banks!

One or two members have queried whether there should be a ‘club night’. The committee has discussed and the consensus is that the best time for members and potential members to meet is at the 09:00 session on Saturday morning. Historically this time has been the domain of the flat water racers but all disciplines are welcome and it is an ideal opportunity to socialise and learn more. Please also remember that the third Saturday of each month is the club Hare & Hounds event. The course distance is between 2 and 6 miles and the event is open to all boat-types. It is an excellent way of keeping fit! *(Continued on page 2)*

Annual General Meeting

**The Annual General Meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club will be held at
Frimley Baptist Church, Balmoral Drive, Frimley, GU16 9AR
on
Friday 26 November 2010
commencing at 20:00 preceded by an American Supper**

From the Chair (Continued)

I would like to reiterate what was said in the last edition of Waterfront - the need for more of our club members to join Canoe England (BCU as it was). ***One reason why it is important is that next year, if there are insufficient Canoe England members within our club, then Canoe England may not renew its agreement with the Basingstoke Canal Authority for its licence to cover the canal.*** If this was to happen then we would all need to buy a separate licence for the canal. This would be a massive shame as the current Canoe England licence covers many waters and enables us to vary our paddling as well as giving us the right to use our canal. So, if you want to paddle multiple waters and/or you want to participate in competitions, then I seriously recommend that you consider taking out Canoe England membership.

Progress on the club facilities (showers, toilets and changing rooms) project has stalled due to the need for the Canal Authority (BCA) to submit a planning application for the camping site in parallel with the

building application. The plans for the proposed building have been ready for some months now and the lack of progress by BCA in getting its camping site application together has been the source of much frustration. Charles Hicks is continuing to encourage the BCA to make headway and the submission of the planning application is expected in late September 2010. Funding for the facility cannot be sought until planning permission is granted.

And finally... the club's AGM is to be held on Friday 26th November 2010 at the Frimley Baptist Church, Balmoral Drive, Frimley, GU16 9AR. Start time is 20:00. There are a number of committee members stepping down this year so if serving on the committee interests you then please do read the notices which will be distributed a few weeks before the AGM.

See you on, and possibly in, the water.

Alan Ebbage



There really is a lot going on

Once you have got your one star or paddlepower passport or are of equivalent standard the world of kayaking and canoeing is wide open to you.

Please join in some of our activities: you will gain invaluable experience by taking part. In this newsletter there are a large number of events and trips. Come forward: just **ask** the organiser for information and you will be given every encouragement to take part.

Look at the trips and events in this newsletter and on our website. Perhaps you are not used to winter paddling. It will be a lot better than you may fear. Dress properly for the conditions, prepare well and you will enjoy some wonderful days. Just **ask** if you want to know more. So what is on offer? Let's start near to home:

Pool sessions – Held at RAF Odiham early on a Sunday evening. Warm, clean water: what could be better to maintain your kayak skills through the winter? Contact Lee Matthews

Circuit Training – help maintain or improve your overall fitness for your future canoeing forays. Contact: Richard Somerset

Hare & Hounds – no, no, no not solely the reserve of the racing lot. It is open to all in any canoe or kayak. You can do 2 miles although I would hope you would go for 4 or 6 miles. You will improve your stamina and fitness to put you in shape to tackle other trips and events. Contact: Gavin Branch

Canoe Orienteering – again, open to all in any boat. Great fun and a little, but not very, testing. Contact: Brian Gandy

Boxing Day paddle – a mix of canoeing and mulled wine – are you warming to that? Warm clothing and woolly hat are all part of the scene: bring your own mince pies. Contact: Charles Hicks

BCCC Canal Challenge – a little more serious now. It is a time trial over 16 miles from Odiham to Mytchett or you can team up with someone and do it as a relay. Contact: Howard Smith

Racing – We have about 60 paddlers who take part in sprint or marathon. But we always welcome newcomers and we can offer you coaching and regular training. Come and give it a try – contact: Brian Gandy or Richard Somerset.

Paddlesport Challenge – introduces juniors to a wide range of competitive canoeing in a fun way. Contact: Paul Jeffs

Canadian Canoe – if you are intrigued by Brian Biffin's article about his trip to Scotland and want to find out more about Canadian training or trips contact Brian: he will be only too pleased to help.

Trips and touring - there are a wide range of trips organised throughout the year. Experience different waters and meet others from the club.

Sea Kayaking – look out for these, too. Usually in the summer: often run by Brian Biffin great fun in the company of experienced paddlers who can give you guidance.

Yes, there really is a lot going on. Look on the website for trips.

So join in: we want you to get the most out of YOUR club

All trips, events, pool and other training dates are on the club's website. Keep up to date with any changes by reference to the website <http://www.b3c.org.uk>

Scottish Wilderness by Canoe (and one Kayak)

Having paddled the canal and the Thames Tideway, it was time for Anne, Bev, Merry and Rowan to join me on a wilderness adventure in Western Scotland.

Accommodation at the Outdoor Centre at Inchree was excellent. We had to make the most of it. The next two weeks we would be either under canvas or slumming it in VW camper vans. Inchree, on the shores of Loch Linne, is some 15 Km south of Fort William. Day one we drove to Glen Coe village and paddled Loch Leven, zoomed under Connel Bridge with the ebb tide back to Inchree. So far so good. Food, stoves, tents all packed, we drove to Glenfinnan and the head of Loch Shiel. Glenfinnan Hotel looked somewhat upmarket, but we were welcome to sit around a log fire with our teas while we filled in their hillwalker's record sheet. Loch Shiel is freshwater but some 30 Km long, very deep and runs southwest. The headwind produced a slight chop, which Rowan sliced through effortlessly in his Nordkapp. We covered some 12 Km before finding a likely spot to check out our wilderness camping skills. Squirting midge repellent everywhere, donning nets over our hats, we landed on a nice sandy beach, and set about lighting a fire to help repel the little blighters. Anne's meatball and couscous dinner was a great success. My only mistake at night was answering a call of nature, but not covering my legs fully. The little blighters turned my legs into battlefields. The morning paddle back to Glenfinnan was not a paddle at all. The wind had stiffened to a nice force 4 and we sailed all the way, apart from Rowan, who was in a fast pointy boat anyway. Compulsory cream tea stop at the hotel.

After the inevitable retail therapy in Fort William, we set off for the Kyle of Lochalsh. Climbing the Ratagan Pass afforded stunning views of the Seven Sisters of Kintail mountain range. Winding through Glenelg we followed a tiny road to the very end: the village of Corran, where Sheela, who ran a rustic café in the very last cottage treated us to - you guessed - cream teas. The 6Km paddle across Loch Hourn was unforgettable. The barking of seals echoed off the mountain sides. We landed in Barrisdale Bay at the top of the tide, but due to a slight misunderstanding of the map, and exactly how far upstream a river was tidal, we had to drag our craft some 200 metres up the river bed to the bothy. No question of putting up tents - the midge population was impressive, but it stayed outside. The bothy boasted a proper loo, 2 bunk bed rooms and a common room to cook and eat in. No electricity, but unfiltered running water and sanctuary from the midges. Barrisdale Bay is on the Knoydart Peninsula, it felt so isolated it could have been an island. If you don't arrive by boat, it's a 30 Km mountain walk. Next day we 'joined' the Munro Baggers and walked to the summit of the pass leading to Loch Nevis in perfect weather.

Day 3 we loaded the boats and chatted up a nearby farmer who offered to carry everything down to the water's edge with his tractor and trailer. Back at Corran, Merry made a headlong dash to Sheela's and persuaded her to remain open for - yes, you've guessed!

Canoeing wilderness experiences over, we spent a few days on Skye, on an end of the road campsite at Glenbrittle Bay, a beautiful spot, with the Black Cuillins towering above us to the south.

We said goodbye to the Williams in Oban. Anne and I then drove across Mull to paddle our canoe over the Sound of Iona, feeling the Atlantic swell lifting then gently lowering our fully laden Prospector, as we followed the ferry. We joined some friends from church for a week in Iona Abbey for reflection, working, walking and, yes, a spot of canoeing. Brian Biffin



The calm of Loch Hourn

Racing

Club members have enjoyed many successes at the marathon races held throughout the summer. Overall we finished third in the Southern Region Hasler competition and so qualify for the Hasler Finals at Worcester on 10 October.

The 2010/11 season started on 1 September. We have already had races at Henley and Pangbourne, and at Windsor where several found the conditions tricky and found themselves taking a swim.

Late in July a small team travelled to Chester for the National Marathon Championships with some pleasing results. Naomi Smith came second in the U16 Ladies K1 class. Isobel and Naomi won the U16 K2 class and so were crowned National Champions. Their time was over 2 minutes ahead of the second boat. A report is on the Club's website.



A muddy beach portage for Isobel and Naomi

The Club was also represented at the National Sprint Regatta in Nottingham in September and amongst the successes were promotions for Nick Boreham to Boys "B" and for Joe Hansell in his first sprint race who went up to Boy's "C".

Promotions at recent races indicate the successes we are having:

At Thames Valley race

Andrew Jeffs to div 6

Carl Veness to div 7

Alan and Caroline Ebbage to div 7

Luke Veness to div 8

At Longridge:

Paul Jeffs to div 6

Tim Truesdale to div 6

Sarah Francis to div 7

At Pangbourne

Tracy Rees-Clark to div 6

At Henley:

Ryan Truesdale to div 5

Andrew Jeffs to div 5

Chris Branch to div 5

Caroline Barnes to div 5

Carl Veness to div 6

Sarah Francis to div 6

Ruth Smith to div 7

Rob Hansford to div 7

Wendy Fox to div 8

The Shindig

Following on from the Chairman's thank you BBQ was an afternoon of watery madness and mayhem.

Take two teams of youngsters and one not quite so young, and give them a plastic Master (the blue and white beginners' boats) to kneel in and paddle round a buoy using only their hands. It is not long before creative techniques to gain an advantage are in use. In some circles this is known as cheating. Giving them half a paddle to use doesn't help the majority, and more cheating ensues. A piggyback race sees most of the supposedly helpless victims kicking madly from the sterns of their kayaks to aid propulsion. Most of the participants are proud of their skills in a racing boat and are thrilled to discover that a K2 race is next. They are not so pleased when it turns out the K2s in question are heavy plastic Topo Duos and that they have to be portaged....

At last, after much lobbying of the organiser, they are allowed in K1s, but have to propel them hands free, or backwards round the buoy. A straightforward race round the buoy is the finale. With a broad ability range between U12 Lightnings up against Div 4 and 5 boys and a beefy Div 3 the sensible money would be on Jimbo (Div 3) coming out on top. However, with the turn only 30 yds from the start a veritable pile up ensued and Alex Veness in a shorter, more agile Lightning edged out Jimbo to the finish line.

Jimbo cried "Foul", but that was directed at the young lady who switched the feather on his paddles just before the race!

Liz M

Race Training

In addition to the events in the calendar, there are the following regular race training sessions at Mytchett each week throughout the year:-

Monday 18:00 6k time trial – last night Monday 25 October. Contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584

Tuesday 09:30 Introduction to Placid Water - contact Liz Murnaghan 01276 514766

Tuesday 17:30 Race training – contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584 **(Until 26 October)**

Tuesday 19:30 Race training – contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584 **(From 2 Nov)**

Thursday 09.30 from Crookham Wharf race training - contact Charles Hicks 01252 850657

Thursday 19:00 circuit training, Mytchett – contact Richard Somerset 01252 683584

Saturday 09:00 race training/coaching - Richard Somerset 01252 783584 or Brian Gandy 01252 622630

Hare & Hounds

Third Saturday of each month, so 16 Oct; 20 Nov; 18 Dec; 15 Jan.

There are three distances approx 2, 4 and 6 miles. Contact: Gavin Branch as above.

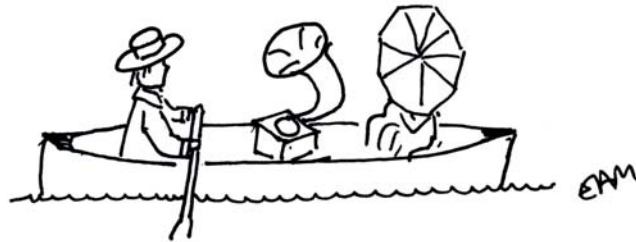
Half term holidays

Rose tells me she is thinking of arranging canoeing at the club on at least one of the days with a variety of paddling opportunities. So, again, key an eye on the club website for any announcement.



Bev and Anne sailing on Loch Shiel

The Countryside code...



... not just for yobbo's
and their ghetto blasters

Liz's response to a "musical" ear bashing during the Henley Hasler race

Pool sessions

Pool sessions are held at RAF Odiham swimming pool on Sundays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

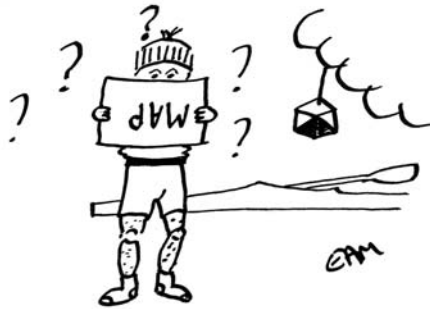
The sessions are split into two of one hour each. Price per session is £4 per head.

The dates are: 17 October: 14 November: 5 December

The programme, to include rolling instruction, will be put onto the website.

To pre-book contact Lee Matthews: 07809 628699 or email: baggycanoe@googlemail.com

Two events not to be missed!!



**Canoe Orienteering Saturday 13 November 2010
At Canal Centre, Mytchett.**

**A fun competition open to all members of the club.
All abilities: all ages: any type of boat.**

Marathon class: 4km canoe + orienteering + 3km canoe

Open class: 700m canoe + orienteering + 700m canoe

Booking in from 9 a.m.: briefing at 10:00: starts from 10:15 a.m.

Hot soup and drinks at the finish. Entry fee: £3. Pay on the day

Full details from: the club website and from Brian Gandy: gandy@adslmail.newnet.co.uk

2nd Basingstoke Canal Challenge

Sunday 12 December 2010

**Two classes: -i Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham to Canal Centre, Mytchett
15.8 miles**

**-ii Junior relay Colt Hill Wharf to Claycart Bridge (10.6 miles)
Plus Claycart Bridge to Canal Centre, Mytchett (5.2 miles)**

Start /Venue: 09:00 – 10:00 at Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham RG29 1DH

**Finish /Venue: Basingstoke Canal Visitors Centre
Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett. GU16 6DD
Finish by 14:30**

**Entry Fees: Adult £7 per seat
Juniors £5 per seat**


Full details on website <http://www.b3c.org.uk> or speak to Howard Smith or Brian Gandy

Forthcoming Trips


Friday 8th to Sunday 10th October: Welsh canoe symposium, Bala.

Full weekend's activities led by the country's top coaches, full board included for around £100.00. Even cheaper if you camp! Fantastic social atmosphere! Places are limited. Bookings now being taken via the <http://www.urdd.org/glanllyn/index.php?Ing=en>


* Saturday 2nd October: River Wey.

Wey navigation Weybridge to Pyrford Lock and returning on the river (11 miles total). This one is suitable for almost anyone! Paddling the navigation out / river return loop up from Weybridge. A shorter 5 mile alternative is to start near Dapdune Wharf and go upstream to Shalford, taking in a bit of river on the way back. See p. 45 Pub paddles by Pete Knowles. Meet 9.30 Mytchett. . Contact [Brian Biffin](#)  for details

* Saturday 16th October: River Mole..

Paddle the River Mole from Dorking to Leatherhead 8Km. Easy grade 2 water but trees completely blocking this flowing river require a certain amount of boat control. Not a trip for beginners! Meet 9.30 Mytchett. Contact [Brian Biffin](#)  for details


Sat 23 October 2010 - Cardiff WWC - kayaks only.

Experienced paddlers only - part recce part fun. Contact [Paul Jeffs](#)  for details.


Sun 24 October 2010 - Symonds Yat - WW intro / 'Yat Picnic 2'.

Suitable for those able to use support strokes and capsize with a deck. Contact [Paul Jeffs](#)  for details.

Sat 30 October 2010 - Barle.

A good follow-up trip to the previous weekend (grade 2, sections will depend on experience and water on the day). Contact [Paul Jeffs](#)  for details.

* Saturday 13th to Sunday 14th November: Monnow exploration (max grade 2).

Cheap overnight barn accomodation in a barn / hostel at Llanthony. Paddling within the Longtown - Great Corras section. Should be an easy grade 2.: Brian intends to paddle open canoe. Unsuitable for beginners. Contact [Brian Biffin](#)  for details.


Sun 21 November 2010 - Cardiff WWC (tbc).

Kayaks only (may open to less experienced paddlers depending on previous visit). Contact [Paul Jeffs](#)  for details.

Sat 4 and Sun 5 December 2010 - Upper Wye and Lower Irfon.

Finishing at Builth each day, grade 2, small grade 3 sections depending on water. Contact [Paul Jeffs](#)  for details.

Sun 23 Jan 2011 - Hell Hole - Upper Wye.

Grade2/3 depending on water. Contact [Paul Jeffs](#)  for details.

* "open canoe friendly" and anyone interested in going for their new BCU 2* should consider joining in ,as these all make

BCCC Membership

Is your membership up to date? If not contact Liz Murnaghan who is presently acting membership secretary. Liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com or 01276 514766

Calendar

Date	Event	Contact	Phone
2010			
2 Oct	River Wey trip	Brian Biffin	07974 353024
3 Oct	Elmbridge Hasler	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
8 – 10 Oct	Open Canoe Symposium	Brian Biffin	07974 353024
10 Oct	Hasler Finals Worcester	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
16 Oct	River Mole trip	Brian Biffin	07974 353024
17 Oct	Cokethorpe Marathon	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
17 Oct	Poll session RAF Odiham 5p.m. -7 p.m.	Lee Mathews	07809 628699
23 Oct	Cardiff WWC	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
24 Oct	Symonds Yat trip	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
24 Oct	Richmond Hasler	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
30 Oct	Barle trip	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
31 Oct	Banbury Hasler	Gavin Branch	01252 641567
4 Nov	Circuit training starts 7 p.m. Mytchett	Richard Somerset	01252 683584
13 Nov	Canoe-Orienteering, Mytchett	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
13/14 Nov	Monnow trip	Brian Biffin	07974 353024
14 Nov	Pool Session RAF Odiham 5p.m. -7 p.m.	Lee Matthews	07809 628699
21 Nov	Cardiff WWC – provisional date	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
28 Nov	Ross Warland Challenge	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
4/5 Dec	Uper Wye/Lower Irfon trip	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
5 Dec	Pool Session RAF Odiham 5p.m. -7 p.m.	Lee Matthews	07809 628699
12 Dec	Basingstoke Canal Challenge	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
26 Dec	Boxing Day Paddle 10 for 10:30	Charles Hicks	01252 850657
2011			
9 Jan	Frank Luzmore K2 Marathon	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
23 Jan	Upper Wye – the Hell Hole	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
5/6 Feb	River Usk trip	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
27 Feb	Waterside “A” Marathon	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
5/6 Mar	Teign – provisional date	Paul Jeffs	01252 615412
6 Mar	Thameside 1 Marathon	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
13 Mar	Waterside “B” Marathon	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
20 Mar	Thameside 2 Marathon	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
27 Mar	Waterside “C” Marathon	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
3 Apl	Royal K1/K2 Marathon	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
10 Apl	Waterside “D” Marathon	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
22 Apl	Devizes to Westminster	Brian Gandy	01252 622630
15 May	BCCC Hasler Marathon race	Gavin Branch	01252 641567

Copy date for December edition is Sunday 19 December

Current Editor: Brian Gandy 01252 622630: email: gandy@adslmail.newnet.co.uk

Please send me any articles and pictures for publication and details of future trips.

www.b3c.org.uk

A site to see