
BCCC Matters!

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February 2019

Don't think much is happening here at B3C? Read on...



B3C Racing News

This from [Tina Looi](#)...

Charles Hicks Challenge

On Saturday 26th January 2019, eight B3C paddlers (Ben, Carl & Neil, Liz, Mike Oliver, Rob, Tina and Zoe) took part in the Charles Hicks Challenge. It was advertised as 10 portages and 13-14 miles. However, the satnav savvy paddlers amongst the fleet reported that the actual distance was more like 15.2

miles. We said it would be a challenge! Luckily, the weather warmed up on the Thursday prior, in time for the ice to melt.

It was the first long distance challenge paddle for Div 8/9 paddlers Zoe Griffiths, Mike Oliver and Tina Looi. Mike started K1 paddling only last summer. Well done to all who took part!

Thank you to Bill Hansell for the well organised event and the amazing volunteers who not only encouraged but ensured the safety of the paddlers. We're pretty sure that we will be moving the event back to November and to a Sunday so as to avoid weather cancellations and encourage schools entries. Watch out for the next challenge in November this year (two for one)!

Winter Challenges and the DW

If you missed the Charles Hicks Challenge or have been bitten by the 'long distance paddle' bug, there are lots of other challenges:

- [Waterside A](#) (Gt Bedwyn - Newbury 13.5miles 21 portages) on 24th Feb 2018
- [Thameside 1](#) (Aldermaston - Reading 12 miles 12 portages) on 3rd March 2019

Both of the above events are less than the CHC15.2 miles! Deadline for Waterside A entry is VERY soon!.

Please do let [Tina Looi](#) know if you'll be doing Watersides / Thamesides / DW. Details of the events are posted on the [club calendar](#).

B3C Hasler

Yes it's time to start thinking about the B3c Hasler, our biggest event of the year. This year it takes place on Sunday 19th May 2019. Be you entrant, volunteer or spectator, put the date in your diary now. Our Hasler mastermind Howard Smith will again head up the organisation of the event and Bill Hansell will assume an 'understudy' role. If you'd like to volunteer, just [let us know](#).



**Personal
Performance
Awards**



Coaching Update – New Personal Performance Awards

From our Coaching coordinator [Pina Napolitano](#)...

British Canoeing has recently changed its Personal Performance Awards and we as a club have been finding out about how this affects us and the training we provide. Club representatives recently attended a local BC meeting to find out more. Although this is specifically for coaches or aspirant coaches, all club members may be interested to read about the new awards at <https://gopaddling.info>. These awards show a move towards being more paddler-centric and would be the ones we are most likely to run at B3C. However, there is also a raft of other new personal performance awards you may wish to get your teeth into as a paddler.

The key action for club coaches is to complete the online training course that introduces the new Personal Performance Awards so they can continue to issue Awards for the club in 2019.

B3C values the work of its tireless coaching volunteers and will reimburse the £15 upfront fee required to undertake the online training, so that coaches can register themselves with British Canoeing as Personal Performance Award Providers. Our club is only as strong as its members who continue to volunteer their time in so many ways. You can access the information [here](#) and log on to the learning platform. It only takes about an hour to complete. At the end you will receive an email to confirm you have undertaken the course which should be forwarded to the [club secretary](#) along with your address so we can post your £15 cheque and record that you have undertaken the training.

Coaching is very rewarding and if you haven't yet undertaken any coaching training but you are interested please let us know. B3C aims to support training where possible as well as other requirements such as first aid qualifications. You may also need a DBS check and individual membership of British Canoeing, but if you have the time to spare and like passing on your knowledge, Paddlesports coaching could be for you!



New Boats!

Thanks to [Zoe](#) and Rick...

Hi all, Rick and I went to the Whitewater Centre recently to put down an order for the 3 boats: a Jura 16 MV, an Expression 14 LV and a Venture Islay 14 LV. All will have skegs (not skudders) and sports bands (low not high seat backs so spraydecks fit securely) fitted. Delivery is expected in 6 to 7 weeks. With some good teamwork, we secured an excellent discount! We're confident these new boats will make an excellent addition to our club fleet!



**The Devizes to Westminster
International Canoe Race**

Is it you this year?

Are you doing the Devizes to Westminster canoe race this year? Let us know who you are and we can make sure the membership is right behind you on the big weekend!

A Call for Volunteers

This via [Tina Looj](#)...

Commencing at "the idyllic Wiltshire market town of Devizes" many volunteers will help paddlers "to navigate the peaceful Kennet and Avon waterway with its wealth of flora and fauna, to Reading, pausing briefly at Blakes lock to join the River Thames". Passing through "historic towns and villages, with stunning views along the way" (yes, volunteers really do see some amazing parts of the countryside). Volunteers help "Passengers and crew disembark at Westminster bridge in the heart of England's capital city".

On behalf of the DW Organising Team, thank you to everyone who has already

volunteered. There are many roles available along the 125 mile course, eg marshal, checkpoint team member, timekeeper at Westminster, or any of the many teams of people who help along the way. DW is an amazing community, an awesome challenge/race so if you do have some time to volunteer, we will welcome you. Just let us know which day/area/time you are available and we will find YOUR place on the course. Usual contact details - either via messenger or email dwwolunteers@gmail.com. Look forward to hearing from you.

Rachel
DW Volunteer Coordinator



Marathon Paddling Training Buddies (MPTB)

This from [Rob Ames](#)..

Are you looking for someone to train or paddle with? MPTB is an informal group (not part of B3C) for paddlers who like to train together for racing. Training together benefits us as it helps us push ourselves a little bit more; it helps us share observations and tips and most importantly it keeps us safe. It is a peer training session and no formal coaching is carried out. Each paddler can post a training session. We currently train on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on the Basingstoke Canal in Mytchett and have organised day time sessions on the Thames and Kennet and Avon canal for those training for the DW race or on the River Wey for a change of scenery. Please [click the link here](#) for Frequently Asked Questions about MPTB and how to participate.



Facilities Update

Cabin Fever

First of all the cabin. It's functional! And general feedback is that it is a great new asset for the membership. It means that paddlers can get changed in relative comfort and everyone can enjoy the benefits of a hot drink in the Kitchen. The cabin is our pride and joy and we want to keep it as bright and sparkling as the day it was commissioned. To that end, can everyone please leave the facilities as any normal person would wish to find them! The committee is in the process of producing appropriate signage but in the meantime, please:

- wash, wipe and put away any crockery and utensils before you leave
- take ALL of your belongings with you...no paddles, changing mats, pogies or other kit left between your sessions
- a cleaning rota will be agreed but please brush/mop floors if you have made a mess

Barn

The basic plan for the barn over the coming months is twofold:

- Clean it up!
- Create a simple but permanent gym area to the right-hand side as you walk in.

There will be work parties in the spring when it's generally a bit warmer. Watch this space...

Boat Storage

We may have storage space to rent for K1 racing and GP boats. We haven't finished the review of space for other boat types yet, save to say that there is unlikely to be storage possibilities for canadians. If you are considering/requiring boat storage rental, contact [Sarah Francis](#).



Checkout our [calendar](#) on our website



Club Kit

There's no excuse not to be blinged up to the eyeballs with B3C branded kit. It's really good stuff and the editor highly recommends the B3C bobble hats. Here's the link to our supplier [Granite Sports](#).



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