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## BCCC Matters! April 2019

1 message

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**Bill Hansell** <w.p.hansell@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: w.p.hansell@gmail.com  
To: w.p.hansell@gmail.com

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## BCCC Matters!

April 2019

Here's a round-up of what's happening at BCCC...

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### And the winning team is...

The results (according to James Freemantle... you may think different...)

Saturday night saw our resident quiz master, Brian Gandy test seven teams of

members with his fiendishly difficult, apparently simple quiz. While not of the scale of the quizzes the club used to run (over 100 people turning up) the event gave an opportunity for everyone to get together wearing normal clothes and not carrying boats.

The pre-dinner session saw the members tested on bird spotting, sportsman spotting, and knowledge of the canal. At this point desperation was starting to set in for some of the teams, which allowed for a timely intervention of fish and chips. Debbie Carpenter ran a raffle, allowing for a few lucky members to top up their drinks or win some dessert. Having stocked up on Fish, its renowned impacts on the brain were tested with rounds on films, geography and anagrams. The anagram round produced a great answer from the question “Go fast and far – *Ah, not on camera (5, 8)*” from a group of marathon canoeists who invented a new sport of “Ocean Marathon”, rather than Canoe...

And so to the scores.... Liz, Adrian, Fiona and Pina won the bragging rights for the evening, with everyone else’s scores best forgotten. Overall though the important bits were the food (and the company), which were pretty good!

Thanks go to Brian and Debbie for their help with this event, and for all those who helped set up at the beginning, and pack up at the end. If you would like to attend or organise similar events in the future do get in touch. Our next big off-the-water get together will be the Summer Shindig and 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday party on 20 July.



## Fun Volunteering Activity

From James Freemantle...

As some of you will know, the banks at Ash lock on the Surrey side aren't in the best condition. The canal authority will be completing some piling of the bank to stabilise it as the gas main (presently on the bridge) is due to be buried under the canal. This is the only time (ever) they can do it. As part of the work, the

committee (particularly Pina) have been discussing putting canoe launch points on both sides of the lock. We are hoping to get a grant to cover this element of the work.

However there is also an opportunity for members to get involved! If you have some building skills and would like to get involved, or would be willing to labour please let [me](#) and/or [Bill Hansell](#) know ASAP (by the end of the week). Time is of the essence. This is a great opportunity for the club to give something back to the canal which has sustained the club for 40 years, and help club members and other canoeists navigate the lock for years to come!



### **Become a qualified Paddlesports coach**

From Nina Napolitano...

The committee is offering experienced club members the chance to undertake one of the new British Canoeing coaching or leadership awards. This will increase personal knowledge and skills, as well as giving you the chance to become a member of our coaching squad to assist with future coaching sessions, race training or club trips.

The courses on offer are below, with an outline of the time commitment involved. The club would pay for the course including first aid or FSRT if it is needed, and the registration fees.

#### **Paddlesport Leader** (recommended if you run or assist in club trips)

2 day training

1 day assessment

1 day first aid

**Paddlesport Instructor** (recommended for race training or introductory coaching sessions)

2 day training and assessment

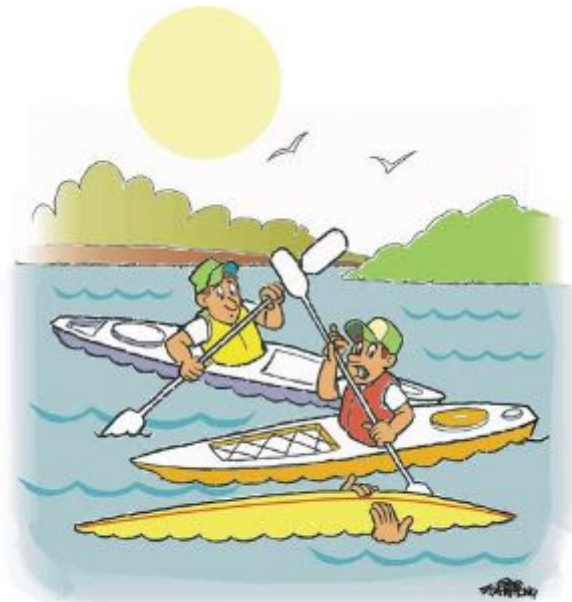
1 day FSRT (foundation safety and rescue training)

1 day first aid

Required commitment after this would be something in the order of running 6 - 10 coaching sessions per year for two years? For leaders, at least 6 trips for two years. If there's enough interest we'd aim to have the sessions delivered at the club, which may make it easier for people to attend.

Please get in touch with [Nina Napolitano](#) to register your interest.

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I CAN'T RECALL HIS NAME, BUT, THE  
BOTTOM OF THAT BOAT IS FAMILIAR.

## Courses

**Introduction to Kayaking Course, starting 23 April:** Still spaces available – see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bccc-introduction-to-kayaking-course-tickets-58605879764?aff=ebapi>. There are also spaces on the second introduction course, starting 11 June.

**NEW!!!! – Introduction to Canoeing course, starting Tuesday 14 May** at 0945. See <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bccc-daytime-introduction-to-canoeing-course-tickets-60258163790?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**NEW!!!! – Intro to Kayak racing, starting Saturday 25 May** for 4 weeks. See <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bccc-introduction-to-kayak-racing-tickets->

Look out for an improver course starting 11 June soon.

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## **BCCC Racing News**

### **DW... It's this weekend**

The [Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race](#) starts on Good Friday. The race is 125 miles long with 77 portages along the Kennet and Avon Canal to Reading and then along the River Thames with the final 17 mile section on the tidal portion of the Thames. Tina Looi will be publishing the details of all our entrants under separate cover. Good luck to all those participating, volunteering, spectating and 'armchair supporting'. You can follow our paddlers [here](#). Good luck to Team BCCC!!

### **DW Volunteer call**

It's not too late to volunteer. If you'd like to volunteer during the Devizes to Westminster Challenge over Easter, please contact [Rachel Dennis](#).

### **BCCC Hasler...It's coming soon!!**

The BCCC Hasler takes place on Sunday 19th May 2019 and marks the start of the Southern Regional Hasler season after the winter break. We need YOU! This event is our biggest logistical challenge of the year and Howard Smith needs every little bit of help he can get. If you are not paddling (or even if you are), please help out at this event, even for a couple of hours. We have all sorts of roles: marshalling, catering/kitchen, booking-in, timing, starts, first aiding...the list goes on. Please (if you haven't already done so) let [Bill Hansell](#) know that you are willing and able.

## Boats and Equipment Sale

We will be selling boats and equipment at the BCCC Hasler. If you have surplus stuff you want to unload, bring it along to the BCCC Hasler. Make sure it is clearly marked with the seller's name and how much you want for your item(s). One of our illustrious volunteers will man the BCCC Hasler Shop.

## Peer Paddles

If you are looking for a group to train with, there are groups who train mainly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. It is not coach-led, it is peer training. If you'd like to join these groups, please contact [Rob Ames](#) or [Tina Looi](#).

If you'd like to receive race related news like the forthcoming Haslers, please update your email preferences – link can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.



From Bill Hansell...

It was politely pointed out to me the the Barn clean is scheduled for the Easter weekend and that lots of people will be away or doing the DW. So I have changed it to 27 April. Sorry for any inconvenience.



From our local friends at Blackwater Valley Canoe Club...They have a very big calendar of events...

We just wanted to give you a quick update on our programme, which can also be found on our website calendar <https://www.bvcc.org.uk/programme/>.

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Checkout our [calendar](#) on our website. Did you know you can subscribe to the B3C calendar? Just click on the Subscribe button at the [B3C Calendar page](#) to show B3C events in your own calendar.

Saturday 20th April, from 9.30am (and every third Saturday of the month).

**Hare and Hounds.** Adjust your preferences (in the footer to this email) if you want to receive racing notices. [Tony Gallagher](#) is organising.

Saturday 27 April, 10am onwards - **Barn Spring Clean (Revised Date)**. All hands welcome, even if you can only spare half an hour. The Barn has suffered over the last year while we have concentrated on the new cabin. It's desperately in need of a spruce up. We'd also like to clear as much space on the right hand side of the barn so that we can install some cushion matting and a bit of a gym. Strategically planned for after the usual hare and hounds.

Contact: [Bill Hansell](#)

Saturday 27 April, 10am - **B3C Elimination Race**. We've all seen the cyclists do it, where the final racer at the end of each lap is eliminated! The B3C race will have a shorter course for GP/Tourer and a longer course for racers, but all on the water at the same time in the same event. **This event is free**, with tea and toast in the clubhouse after. More details to follow. Again book online at Eventbrite. Contact: [Pina Napolitano](#)

The club now has its introduction to kayaking courses in the diary. These will

follow the new British Canoeing Discover syllabus. The cost is £35 per person, for 5 weeks coaching. **Course 1 runs from Tuesday 23 April**, and **Course 2 from 11 June**. Both courses start at 6pm, ending at 7:30pm. Book on Eventbrite. Contact: [Pina Napolitano](#).

First Saturday of the month from May. **Taster sessions**. This is aimed at those who've not paddled before and the sessions follow the British Canoeing Start Syllabus, with an emphasis on fun and enjoying being on the water. [Book online at Eventbrite](#).

Sunday 18 May, from 9am – **B3C Hasler race** - see earlier

June (TBC) – **B3C Cardboard Boat Race!** Can you make a boat from cardboard/paper and paddle it over a short course? Costs, date and rules TBC. I'd also like some volunteers to lead on this one – please get in touch with [James Freemantle](#).

Saturday 20 July, from 10:45am - **B3C Summer Shindig!** This 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Shindig will hopefully be the biggest yet! Taking place after the Hare and Hounds (do come down and give it a go), this will be a celebration of the club over its 40 years. BBQ and on/off water games as usual, and **hopefully an opportunity to get all our club boats on the water at once!** If you'd like to volunteer to help with this event, please let me know. We are very much hoping to have many of our founder members attending, so put this date in your diary now!

Still a full schedule for the next few months. If you have ideas for events, or would like to support them in any way please let [James Freemantle](#) (our intrepid chairman) know. Our club is only as good as it is as people give their time to help!



**Club Kit**



There's no excuse not 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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## Your chance to contribute to the Newsletter.

Have you got something of general interest to the B3C circulation? A trip, race or competition report? Something you've been up to in a boat? Some good pictures of our paddlers or waterways? An event you think would be good to attend? [Let us know](#) and we'll get something in the monthly newsletter.



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Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club (BCCC)  
Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road

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