
BCCC Matters! August/September 2019

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BCCC Matters!

August/September 2019

Autumn is approaching....

there's still loads going on at BCCC...



View from the Chair

This from James Freemantle...

It seems like a while since we had a BCCC matters email as we've had paddlers away over the summer, but also because there have been lots of

happenings at the club. Starting back on 20 July we had our 40th Anniversary celebration. This involved over 90 members past and present – including some of our founding members. The event kicked off with a Hare and Hounds which wasn't just racing boats – all are welcome at this event. After a brief thunder and rain storm the BCCC Flotilla set off with between 20 and 30 craft of all types taking a potter down the Canal. Following all that activity the Barby gave us all chance to make new friends and meet old ones. I really enjoyed the event, and I hope others did too. Huge thanks to Bill, Debbie, Katie Hicks, Benji, Joe, Anna and Jon for their help!

Moving on, August saw 16 people take to the water in one of our taster sessions. These sessions, new for this year and arranged for the 1st Saturday of each month, give people a chance to experience the club and its various boat types. Thanks to Zoe, Rose, Ian and Jon, those attending left with great experiences, with lots joining the club and our intro sessions. The next taster in September is already full, with another 4 hardy souls already signed up to October...

Which leads me on to coaching. Tony Gallagher, ably supported by Pina, Fiona, Brian and Anne, has been leading his first intro session on Tuesdays, and Brian and Anne have been running another intro course over a number of weekend dates. These courses are really important for the club as they allow us to ensure new members are competent to use the fleet. The feedback we've had this year has been fantastic and I'm hugely grateful to those who give up their time to run these sessions as well as the back office work that goes on behind the scenes. Especially Pina, who with the involvement of our senior coaches has led the development of our introduction course and ensuring we have suitably qualified coaches. This was no mean feat given that the content of both the coaching awards and the paddling awards have changed this year! We also have two new paddlesport leaders to join our coaches - Rick Covell and Chris Badham. Congratulations to both, and I look forward to seeing them using sails with their kayaks soon!

Which brings me on to boats... the club has two new racers, a Zeta and an Epsilon, both in club colours. These are great progression boats for those wanting to step up from a Tor or Hobby. I hope to see them on the water soon. On our existing fleet, hatches have been replaced on some of the tourers to make the fleet more useable, and the boat repair team (Liz, John, Sarah, Tina, Zoe, among others) have been doing a fantastic job getting our existing fleet in a much better state. Please be reminded that if you damage a boat you must report it immediately for the safety of other members.

Finally (it's a busy week this month) thanks to the efforts of Andrew Jeffs we've

started to develop the gym at the club. Those who've been to the club recently will have seen the cable machine appear (which took two journeys as it wouldn't all fit in one load of Andrew's car) as well as mats. More will be happening over the coming weeks.

That's it from me, other than to say all the above would not be possible without the huge efforts our volunteers put in. If you've been inspired, do drop me an email – if you can give time or if you have a specific idea do let me know.

James



40th Anniversary Shindig.

A good time was had by all. The full text of James' speech is [available here](#).



Boat Repair and Maintenance Group

John Rickett, Liz Murnaghan and a band of other have completed a course in boat repairs and are now busy getting our fleet of boats back ship shape and Bristol fashion*. A number of critical repairs have been accomplished and plans are afoot for other repairs to be done. The committee has committed a budget to boat repairs and the team is procuring tools and materials (and a

safety cupboard) for on-going work. If you would like to get involved, contact [John Rickett](#).

[* The term may have developed in view of the port of Bristol which had (before the Floating Harbour was constructed) a very high tidal range of 13 metres (43 ft), the second highest in the world. Ships moored in this area would be aground at low tide and, because of their keels, would fall to one side. If everything was not stowed away tidily or tied down, the results were chaotic and cargo could be spoiled.]



New Boats

Yes they have arrived, like non-identical twins. All beautiful and shiny. They will be available for general use soon. PLEASE PLEASE take good care of them.

From Paul Sandy...

Adding to the variety of boats in the club inventory are two brand new racing kayaks in club colours. Ooooh!! Ahhh!! We now have a new Epsilon ideal for those looking for the next step up from a Hobby or Laance, and a Zeta, again suitable for the next step up especially if you're a junior paddler looking to go faster. Can't wait to see them on the water.

Back to Ed...

We are putting lots and lots of time, effort and money into new boats and repairs to the existing fleet. If you are unsure of how to empty a capsized boat of water, consult a coach before using them (or any other boat for that matter). Please make sure you clean boats after use, that ANY damage is reported (just send an email to any committee member) and that they are stored safely. Rant over...Ed.



From Benji Hansell...

The date of this year's AGM will be Friday 29 November. More details will follow nearer the time but just to let you know, we are hoping to have a 40th anniversary celebration as part (most) of the agenda.

If you received an award last year, please return it to [Richard Somerset](#), or leave it in the portacabin kitchen for him to collect.



Safeguarding Course

From [Debbie Carpenter](#)...

We are planning a safeguarding course for coaches, leaders, instructors and

any other members who think they need this training in order to do their club responsibilities.

- Canal Centre, Mytchett
- Evening of Friday 18th October 2019
- Lead by Kevin Dennis from Adventure Dolphin Pangbourne
- Details to follow

Please [contact Debbie](#) if you want to attend.



Hare 'n' Hounds

Your handicap means that (in theory), everyone finishes at 11am.

We had a better turn-out for the latest Hare 'n' Hounds but we still want to see more of the membership doing it. The emphasis is on fun rather than hard racing but you can take it as seriously as you like. 2, 4 and 6 mile courses. Any ability (so long as you are an on-the-water member), any boat.

Third Saturday of the month. Let Tony Gallagher know if you want to do it (but don't let that stop you just turning up if you roll out of bed with extra energy on the day).



BCCC Racing News

From Tina Looi...

Congratulations to the following paddlers who have been promoted during the **2018/19 Hasler** season:

- Unstoppable **Bryan Godfrey** was promoted from Div 9 to Div 5
- **Robin Lees** to Div 6
- **Tony Gallagher** to Div 7
- **Sean Agha** and **Mike Oliver** to Div 8
- **Jack Johnson** to Div 9

To wrap up the season, **Liz Murnaghan**, **Stuart Skeldon** and **Tina Looi** were promoted to Div 5, Div 7 and 8 respectively at Longridge.

Well done to you all! Results for the season can be found [here](#).

Thank you to all who raced during the season earning points for the club. I'd like to give a special mention to **Tony Gallagher** who raced in EVERY qualifying Southern region Hasler (and in other races out of region, too) = thank you, Tony!

The **2019/20 Hasler season** starts with Pangbourne's 50th Hasler on Sunday 8th September 2019. Details [here](#). It is a circuit race between Whitchurch and Mapledurham Locks.

We would love to see more of you out to race. If you have any questions

relating to racing, feedback on what we can do to help you take part in racing or how to transport your boat to the race, please email [Tina](#) or come up and have a chat to me, James Freemantle or Paul Sandy.

Peer training sessions continue on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings. Please contact [Tina](#) if you would like to join the weekday evening sessions.

Other Race News

On 24th August, **Duncan Capps** came third at the Oban Sea kayak race – a demanding race through remote and exposed waters, covering a distance of 20km circumnavigating the rugged Island of Kerrera, beginning and ending at Oban on Scotland's beautiful west coast. Well done Duncan!

Chris Davidson and **Nick Hobley** in a team of 5, rowed 200 miles from Barcelona to Ibiza, during the summer. Nick and Chris began their Devizes to Ibiza challenge in Easter by paddling the 125 miles Devizes to Westminster Challenge. Between them they have raised around £50k to fight HPV related cancers. Well done guys!

Charles Hick Challenge

This is set for Sunday 3rd November 2019. Put the date in your diary now!



British Canoeing Southern - Regional Development Team

The British Canoeing Southern Region are looking for more volunteers to sit on the Regional Development Team. Liz Murnighan is standing down as Treasurer after ten years in the job. New terms of reference make it a two year post. The Club has a long tradition of providing volunteers for the Region. Mike Simpson has also had a spell as Treasurer and Charles Hicks was Chairman. It involves four committee meetings a year and an annual Meeting, plus as Treasurer you get to keep track of the Region finances and write a few expenses cheques. Volunteer expenses like travel to and from meetings will be reimbursed. Any questions please ask [Liz Murnighan](#).

Peer Paddles

Marathon

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. If you'd like to join these groups, please contact [Rob Ames](#) or [Tina Looi](#).

Touring

If you're into gentle touring paddling along the Basingstoke canal and have a Tuesday Morning (9.30 to 12) or a Saturday (12 to 4) free, come and join a group of NON-RACERS for a peer paddle. We enjoy just being on the water and seeing the sites. We generally paddle all year round, unless the ice gets too thick or in my case, its raining. We paddle in either direction as the whim takes us. We could be ice breaking in winter, bird watching, litter picking, saying 'Hello' to people on the tow path, to name a few fun things. Sometimes we may go to another location on the canal for a change. You can contact me, [Ray Rasmussen](#) and let me know when you might be coming.

Trips and More...

From Paul Jeffs...

Congratulations to Rick Covell and Chris Badham who gained their Paddlesport Leader awards. You can expect to see them leading club trips now.

Rick will be leading our club trip on 7 September on St Patrick's Stream on the Thames. This would be a great first real off-canal trip for those who recently gained their Explore awards. Check out the [trips page](#) for more info.

Paul Jeffs is also running two whitewater fun/intro/refresher days at Symonds Yat on Sunday 8 September and Sunday 6 October. These days are suitable for youngsters and adults as an introduction to white water but are also useful for experienced paddlers wanting a chance to refresh their skills before the whitewater season gets going! You must be comfortable capsizing with a deck. Again, See the [trips page](#).

From Rick Covell...

Ten paddlers ventured forth from Keyhaven through the Keyhaven marshes – just, as the water level was a bit low in places, to Lymington for lunch and returned via a more seaward route to save walking. Cracking day as the

weather and particularly the wind behaved itself. Perhaps a nicer day than the picture reveals.



Buoyancy Aids



Dave Hansford has recently done the safety checks on all our Buoyancy aids.

Thank you Dave.

Two issues:

1. There are five buoyancy aids (pictured above) that are not BCCC. If they are yours please [contact Dave](#) to arrange repatriation.
2. There are a number of BCCC buoyancy aids missing. If you have one about your person, again, please [contact Dave](#) (no names, no pack drill).



Cornish Sea Kayak Symposium

From Liz Murnaghan...

More sea kayaking anyone? The Cornish Sea Kayak Symposium. 12-13th October in Falmouth, Cornwall. Lots of options for all abilities from Virgin surf for sea kayakers, rock garden skills, traditional paddling and Greenland rolling skills, intermediate and advanced journeys, surfing in specialist surf kayaks, even a forward paddling workshop run by ex GB WWR athlete Neil Stamps (if you want someone different to tell you to rotate!) .

Cost £150 plus accommodation. Tent or camper van £10 per person/ night or self-catering bunkhouse £30 pppn.

More information <https://www.seakayakingcornwall.com/symposium/>

There is also the option to stay for a week and do some more advanced course. I am going just for the weekend and am happy to co-ordinate car shares and answer questions on personal kit & what else to take. There will be scones and homemade jam!

Liz.murnaghan@ntlworld.com



Membership Database

From Bill Hansell...

Our online [membership management system](#) continues to improve the quality security of data that we hold on members.

Every member now has a login to the system so you can keep your membership details and subscriptions up to date. Please note that the system is GDPR compliant and we have taken as much care as we reasonably can to ensure that your details are safe. We do not share data with anybody beyond the scope of the declaration you sign without your express permission. The committee reviewed every piece of data that we hold on members to ensure that it is appropriate and necessary for safe and efficient running of the club.

There are a number of people who have not yet renewed or have renewed online but not yet paid (you know who you are!). The membership police are on the case.



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/>.



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.

Got an event that's not on the calendar? Contact [Bill Hansell](#) with the details and we'll make sure it's put on there.



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](#).



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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