

canoe

focus



Features

The Petawawa River, Ontario
An Adriatic odyssey
Doing the big loop



canoe focus

The official magazine
of the British Canoe Union

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Above: Graham Francis - Downstream at Ross on Wye.

Hello and welcome to the October Canoe Focus



As we say goodbye to our amazing summer of sport, I would urge you not to think of this as an ending but as the beginning of a new experience.

Fortunately, you don't need fantastic weather to have a great time in our sport. The nights may be drawing in but there is still plenty of fun and competition to be had out on the water.

This edition of Canoe Focus includes information on the new Go Canoeing Guided Tours organised for October, November and even December! Why not try a wintery trip? Perhaps see firework displays from a unique view on the water. They are also a fantastic activity for family fun if you are looking for ideas for half term.

In competition news and with looking forward in mind, I was fortunate to attend the Canoe Polo World Championships last month to cheer on our GB teams. Congratulations to our women's team which came away with a hard fought silver medal and likewise for the men's under 21 team. There is great potential for the future with our Under 21 sides getting some valuable experience. The same can be said of individuals in our teams at the Wild Water Canoeing Junior Europeans.

We also have a feature on the Falcon Rowing and Canoeing Club – winners of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in which we ask them about the secrets of their success. We will be showcasing many more volunteers in the next issue of Canoe Focus as the winners of the Canoe England Volunteer Awards will have been announced. Our volunteer presentation evening is being held in Nottingham at the end of October. It is essential to recognise our volunteers. They are the key ingredient to the success of our sport. Many congratulations to all our nominees and best of luck to all those shortlisted.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of Canoe Focus. Happy paddling!

Paul Owen, BCU Chief Executive

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Charles Hicks - Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club

Charles Hicks was a founding member of the Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club in 1979 and its first Chairman. He was one of the club's most enthusiastic and active supporters through to his death late in July aged 76 years.

He had held every position in the club and was most recently managing the club's interests in discussions with the Canal Authority for obtaining improved club house facilities at the Club's base at Mytchett. Charles was Chairman of the Southern Region Development Team for many years. His main interest was marathon racing but he was also an accomplished canoeist and moving water paddler and actively supported each of the club's canoeing disciplines. He continued to race regularly: his last race being in K2 at the Thames Valley race in July and shortly before his death he had paddled his new K1 from his home the ten miles to the club.

Charles had many interests. A keen sailor until he turned to canoeing, he remained a keen skier – downhill and cross-country. He took an active part in the early restoration of the Basingstoke Canal. He had over the past 30 years led the club's summer holidays to rivers in France and had also contributed fully to the local community as chairman of the parish council and of his village's twinning committee with a small town near Paris.

All at the club have fond memories of Charles particularly for his generous help and advice to fellow club members and our thoughts are with Katie, his wife, his sons and their families.

Ian Beecroft

I tried to think when I first met Ian, but I couldn't remember a single event or time. It must have been back in the late '70s, during the heyday of canoe slalom in the UK. It couldn't have been at the 'building of the Alamo' at Grandtully – I was the wrong side of the barricades; nor was I in the pyramid building at Linton when Radar fell from the top... but Ian was there and was probably one of the instigators of these and similar escapades.

It was, however, at or around these slatons and the social life they generated that I met up with Ian and many others. When the smoke of many bars cleared and the numerous hangovers subsided I realised I had made many friends, but more importantly a good friend in Ian.

If I had to sum up Ian in a word it would be 'friendship'. He had a universal generosity to his fellow paddlers. Look at Ian's contributions to the UK Rivers Guide Book forums, look at the time he

would take to send people river notes and trip advice, many times to people he had only met in passing, or in an eddy, if at all. Ian was like that. But for those of us who were friends, his hospitality was unbounded.

Ian was one of the original naughty boys, and along with Dave Higson, upset many a figure of authority in his youth

Anyway, travelling to Ian's funeral on the train to Martigny from Geneva I browsed one of the free French newspapers – at least the weather forecast, as that is mostly pictures, and the day of the funeral was a sunny day just as the paper predicted and just as Ian was in life. The following day they predicted thunderstorms and lightning and I thought how apt – Ian and Dave have been reunited and has upset another figure of authority!

Dave Manby



Above: Ian (far right) in India last year.

Competition

2013

Start	Finish	Discipline	Event
03 Nov	04 Nov	British Open - Lee Valley	Canoe Slalom
2013		European Championships - Krakow, POL	Canoe Slalom
2013		European Championships - Montemore-o-Velho, POR	Canoe Sprint
2013		European Championships - Trnovo, SLO	Wildwater Canoeing
2013		World Championships (Sprint) - Solkan SLO	Wildwater Canoeing
2013		European Championships - Vila Verde, POR	Canoe Marathon
2013		World Championships - Rio de Janeiro, BRA	Canoe Sprint
2013		World Championships - Juniors - Welland, CAN	Canoe Sprint
2013		World Championships - Under 23 & Juniors - Liptovsky Mikulas, SLO	Canoe Slalom
2013		World Championships - Prague, CZE	Canoe Slalom
2013		European Championships - Poznan, POL	Canoe Polo
2013		World Championships - Nantahala, USA	Canoe Freestyle
2013		European Championships - Under 23 & Juniors - Bourg St Maurice, FRA	Canoe Slalom
2013		European Championships - Under 23 & Junior - Poznan, POL	Canoe Sprint
20 Sep	22 Sep	World Championships - Copenhagen, DEN	Canoe Marathon

Hereford's double reason to celebrate

Hereford Kayak Club (HKC) recently held a social evening to mark two significant achievements for the club, the award of Sport England's Club Mark accreditation and a grant of £10,000.

To be accredited with Club Mark is a real achievement for such a small club and reward for much hard work and dedication from many of the members involved along the way. Particular credit, however, should go to our treasurer Kay Spencer for tirelessly coordinating and pulling together the whole project over the past couple of years.

The award together with the grant, which will be spent on new equipment, in particular kayaks for beginners and developing paddlers is a real milestone in the history and evolution of HKC.

Lee Champ, Secretary of HKC said, "We have struggled for a few years now, due to a lack of boats and equipment to attract new members, which in turn has meant we were not obtaining revenue to invest in the Club. We have recently qualified six of our members as level one coaches, and now with this money from Sport England and Club Mark we are able to attract new members to the club and the fantastic sport of canoeing. As a further consequence, we have also begun to work in partnership with Herefordshire Council to increase the awareness and participation of paddle-sport, particularly amongst the younger members of the community of Hereford. Amazingly, we are already seeing results, with a healthy uptake in our new-starters and improvers programme and taster-sessions."



Above: Members of Hereford Kayak Club and representatives from Herefordshire Council.

Presentation for record breaking Channel crossing



Above: Drew Samuel, Ian Wynne and Ian Tordoff

Last autumn, Paul Wycherley set an impressive new record for the fastest crossing of the English Channel in a kayak, in an astounding time of 2 hours 21 minutes.

To mark this incredible achievement, the BCU recently gathered together the past record holders at Eton Dorney to celebrate their achievements and present them with trophies.

Drew Samuel, who held the record from 1976-2005, Ian Tordoff, record holder from 2005-2007, and Ian Wynne, Athens Olympics bronze medallist, who held the record from 2007-2011, were all there to enjoy the celebrations,

and collect their individual trophies. Sadly, due to work commitments, Paul Wycherley was unable to join the others to collect the unique trophy, which was especially commissioned for this event.

In brief

Avon Descent

The Avon Descent takes place on Sunday November 4th, starting at Stratford on Avon and finishing 10 miles downstream at Bidford on Avon with six weirs to shoot or portage. There are classes for K1, K2, WWR, TC2, and touring singles and doubles. This is a popular event for those racing or looking for an enjoyable day trip. Last year well over 120 paddlers took part. Further information is on the Mercia Canoe Club website www.mericiacanoecub.org.uk or email: info@mericiacanoecub.org.uk for details.

Fancy a challenge?

On the 2nd December 2012 at 11am the Stour Valley Canoe Club will be holding their annual race, the Stour Descent. An exhilarating 15-mile race in the form of a time trial, you will start at Sturminster Newton Mill and follow a course that contains optional and obligatory shoots and a compulsory portage and you will finish your race at Bryanston School where you will be provided with hot showers, refreshments and a presentation ceremony. Sharp turns, shallows and natural obstacles all set in the wonderful picturesque countryside of Dorset will provide you with an exciting and challenging days racing. The race is open to the following classes K1 junior and senior; K2 junior and senior; Wavehopper Junior and senior; slalom junior and senior and finally touring double and Canadian. For further information including entry prices and entry forms go to www.stourvalley.cc and follow the link for the Stour Descent.

New item in BCU e-Shop

Currently popular in the BCU e-Shop is the Canoe and Kayak Map of Britain which is a high quality map of mainland Britain which shows the huge extent of canoeing possibilities on rivers, lakes, canals, and coast.

It is colour-coded to clearly show the nature of these waterways. Southern England and Wales appear on one side of this B1 sheet with Scotland and the North of England on the reverse.

Format: Folded map B1 size, folded to 245x115mm; full colour; scale 1:625,000 .



Photo competition winners

We are pleased to announce that the joint winners for July are Dean Gatley and Andrew Riley and the August winners are Paula Shaw and Jai Padhiar.

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Marking Olympic success at Royal Canoe Club

More than 350 people gathered at Royal Canoe Club the day after the Closing Ceremony of London 2012 for a post-Olympic Games party and the annual running of the world's oldest canoe race, the 10,000m Paddling Challenge, which was first staged in 1874.

Present were numerous Olympians and international canoeing stars from around the world, including New Zealand canoe legend Ian Ferguson, Tim Cornish from South Africa, Sergey Saraev from Russia and GB Olympians Tim Brabants, Ian Wynne, Jon Schofield, Rachel Cawthorn, Paul Darby-Dowman, Alan Williams, Chris Canham and Hilary Wells.

The men's race featured a 50-strong start, the largest 10,000m field in Britain for some years and featured several top racing paddlers, including Tim Brabants, Jonny Tye, Jon Boyton, Tom Simmons, Keith Moule, Peter Egan and Ben Farrell. Brabants won, closely followed by Tye and Moule.

In the women's race Richmond's Lizzie Broughton finished first, followed by Jenny Egan of Ireland.

Ian Ferguson, manager of the NZ Olympic team at London 2012, trained at Royal Canoe Club for two years in the late 1970s. He told the assembled crowd, "It's great to be back, to see so many old faces, so many of them still canoeing. This is what it's all about, doing the sport we love and staying in touch."

Tim Brabants received the loudest cheer of the evening when he thanked everyone for supporting the British team during the Games, "It was fantastic to have so much encouragement and I know it made a lot of difference to everyone in the team."

All classes were well supported, with a large women's event, two junior races and even a 5,000m competition for outriggers from the Kingston Royals Dragonboat team.

Among the many presentations during the evening was the unveiling of a new honours board, dedicated to Royal Canoe Club's many world championship medal-winning downriver racing paddlers, several of whom – Olivia Churchill, Radka Felingerova, Mike Phillp, Neil Stamps and Graham Goldsmith – also attended.

The Paddling Challenge runs every year and full details can be found on the club website, www.royalcanoeclub.com



Above: Front group.



Above: Canadian competition.



Above: Sue Middlehurst.



Above: Tim receives cup from Ian Ferguson.

In brief

Greenland Olympics

Organised by Poole Harbour Canoe Club, twenty three kayakers from canoe clubs across the south of England attended the first Greenland Olympics in the UK.

The competition was divided into four events:

- Kayak rolling: Winner - Steve Godfrey.
- Kayak racing: Winner - John Ewart.
- Harpoon throwing: Winners - Lee Taylor and John Weinstock.
- Greenland rope gymnastics: Winner - Lee Taylor.

As well as the competitions, everyone joined in, learning new skills, sharing experiences and enjoyed meeting other enthusiasts of traditional Greenland kayaking. Poole Harbour CC, based in Studland, worked with the National Trust to ensure that this event was a success. Due to deteriorating weather on Sunday, they had a shortened paddle in Poole Harbour with gale force winds and torrential rain, proving how hardy these craft are. Thanks to Hamworthy middle school, they were able to use their swimming pool to finish off the kayak rolling competition, where Steve Godfrey demonstrated the widest variety of rolls to win the kayak rolling event.

Many thanks go to the staff of the National Trust at Studland, Hamworthy Middle School, the Bankes Arms and all the helpers from Poole Harbour Canoe Club.

Youngsters show energetic new ways to learn

Schools from Ynys Môn (Isle of Anglesey) and Gwynedd have won praise from Welsh Government member Ieuan Wyn Jones for spearheading a revolutionary approach to education, which makes the marine environment a key part of learning.

At the Ysgol y Môr (School of the Sea) Race Day 2012, at the Plas Menai National Watersports Centre near Caernarfon, more than 200 children from 13 local schools demonstrated how they have developed their knowledge of subjects ranging from renewable energy technology to marine biology, as well as watersport skills, by taking part in the first initiative of its kind in the UK, being piloted over three years.

Sponsored by nuclear power technology specialists EnergySolutions, who own Magnox Ltd, the day featured an inter-schools regatta of sailing, kayaking and windsurfing races: a marine renewables regatta, run by Engineering Your Future, showcasing pupils' work on solar powered boats, wind and water turbines, and fuel cell technology, culminating in a solar boat race and a Classe de Mer (Classroom of the Sea) display, showcasing pupil's work on marine wildlife, conservation, maritime culture, history and landmarks on the Menai Strait, ocean sciences, coastal living and dune formation, art and literature.

More information: www.ysgolymor.org.uk

Paracanoe journey to Rio 2016

Staff and Games Maker volunteers at the Olympic and Paralympic Rowing Village have raised funds for GB Paracanoeing. The sport will appear for the first time at the Brazil games.

Miriam Luke, Rowing and Canoe Sprint Village Manager and Sydney Rowing silver medallist, said, "We are delighted to be able to give Paracanoe a head start on its journey to Rio 2016." Funds were raised from items and sporting memorabilia left to the village by teams after the 2012 games.

Paracanoe GB Programme Manager Steve Harris said, "It's great that paracanoe now has a profile and that the team at the Canoe Sprint Village are so willing to support the athletes moving forwards

towards Rio." The International Canoe Federation (ICF) began a programme to make the sport possible to all in 2009. A year later the sports inclusion in the Rio Paralympic programme was approved as 31 countries sent participants to the Paracanoe World Championship, in Poland. Two types of boats are used: kayaks and outrigger canoes, known as Va'a. Boats are adapted to the functional abilities of crew members to meet three classes of competitor. Competition is along a 200-metre straight line courses marked by buoys. With the donation from the London 2012 Rowing and Canoe Sprint Village team, preparations for getting to the start line are already underway.



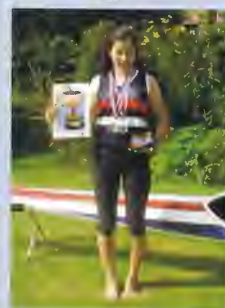
Above: The Rowing and Canoe Sprint Village Team

Sarah's Team GB call-up

Kayaker Sarah Ellis has been selected to represent Great Britain in the U16 events of the French Marathon Championships at Reims on 13-14th October.

Sarah, aged 14, from Pershore and pupil at Malvern St James Girls' School, has been selected following her outstanding performances. Having achieved a bronze medal in the kayak singles and gold in the kayak pairs at the UK National U14 Girls Marathon Championships in August, Sarah won bronze in the kayak singles, silver in the kayak pairs and gold in the kayak four.

Sarah is one of only two U14 girls who have been selected for the U16 team of four competing in the U16 event. She said: "All the hard work that I have put in over the last year with lots of training sessions and practice on perfecting my technique paid off, with some great results in the recent UK National Age Group Championships. I am really looking forward to representing GB next month in the U16 National Marathon Championships taking place in France and taking on the French and some other European Junior paddlers. The races will be over eight miles with three portages where I have to get out of my boat and run with it some distance before getting back in again. Malvern St James has given me fantastic support and encouragement, providing me with a personal trainer at lunchtimes and allowing me to leave early on some evenings for training."





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Canoe Polo World Championships

Poznan, Poland

All summer we've been fired and inspired by GB athletes, and it's now canoe polo's turn.

The GB teams ventured out to Poland for the tenth world championships, at the fabulous Malta regatta course in Poznan. Sixty teams, involving 600 athletes from 25 countries gathered for this tournament, showcasing what the Polish Minister for Sport called "the best of the best, and the elite of the discipline."



The first days of the men's tournament were run on a mini league basis, with the GB men coming third in their league, putting them in a difficult second round which included Germany and France, the World's strongest teams. The men won only one game and finished tenth.

The U21 men finished top of their group, and moved into the next level of competition with games against Denmark, France and Italy. The results from these matches were 6-4; 4-6; 6-4. Sounds like a tennis result!

The women powered through to the second round, with a tally of 52 goals in their four games, which took them into a league involving Poland, Netherlands and Australia, which they comfortably won.

The U21 women were in a single group of seven countries, won three and lost three, ensuring a place in the semi finals.

In the first of the semi finals on Super-Saturday the U21 women faced Germany and despite a spirited attempt lost 7-3, putting them in the 3/4 playoff against New Zealand. NZ have made massive strides in canoe polo and proved to be too strong for the GB. The final score was 6-3, which left the players devastated, but there is optimism for the future. Final placings: Germany gold; France silver and NZ bronze.

The second semi-final was between GB U21 men and Germany. A very strong German team were favourites for this match, but GB were up for it. Half time 2-1 to Germany, with GB soaking up a lot of pressure. However, two goals very late in the game secured a GB win. The final, against France, was really good show match for canoe polo. GB took a 2-0 lead, but France forced themselves back into the game coming back in the second half to win 4-3. Never satisfied, the GB team were going for gold, but had to settle for silver.

The GB women (the reigning world champions have rarely come up against such tough opposition as they did against New Zealand in the semi-final). The Kiwis were strong and accurate setting up a bruising encounter. At half time, GB lead by one goal, and a further exchange of goals gave GB the win 4-3, and the chance to defend their title.

In the final, the GB women never looked their old selves, and certainly met their match in a very disciplined German side. The four-times World Champions could not hold on to their title, eventually losing 4-1.

The women have had an excellent tournament and the silver medal is still a major achievement.

Final team GB positions: Women 2nd; Men 10th; U21 Women 4th; U21 Men 2nd.

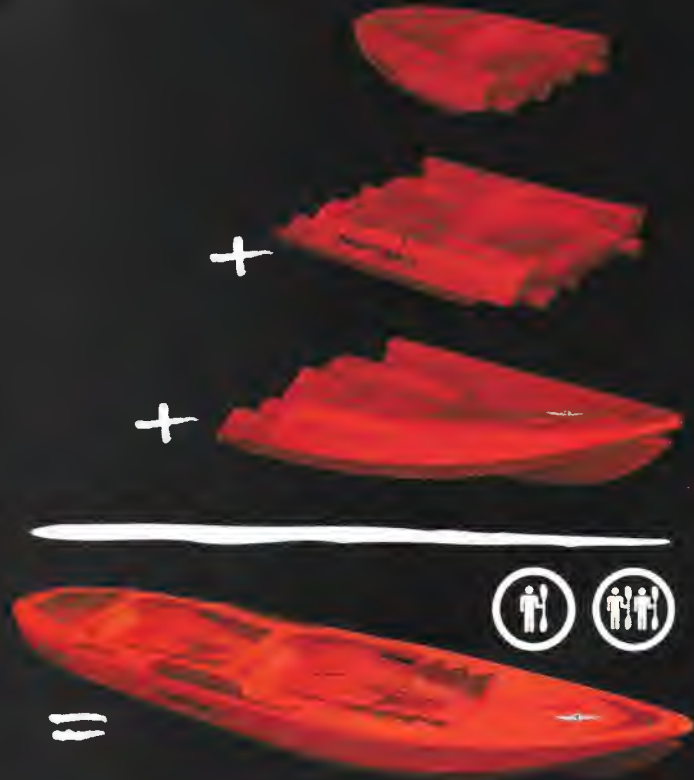
Much to think about for 2016!



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Wild Water Canoeing Junior Europeans

Solkan, Slovenia

Between the 30th August and 2nd September the Junior Wild Water European Championship was held at Solkan, Slovenia. This was a championship of many firsts! It was the first junior European race course to start in one country and finish in another; it was the first junior championships combined event with canoe slalom, and for many of the British junior team it was their first major international!

Friday 24th saw the group of eight paddlers, two coaches and one team manager (plus the essential drivers and chef) head out across Europe. The team this year included the GB squad selected paddlers and development selected paddlers. In MK1 we had Matt Bishop, Scott Finch and Josh Hook with Grant Underwood as development. In the WK1 we had Gemma Bishop and representing development Clare Brown, Lucy Brown and Rachel Slade.

With an uneventful yet long journey over, the team was eager to get to the course and on the water. For anyone who has been to Slovenia and had the delight of paddling on the turquoise waters of the Soca River would know of its breath taking beauty. The scenery is stunning and the water so unbelievably clear. Once the juniors had stopped gawping they were on the water like a shot!

This year we were treated to a fun sprint race down the Solkan slalom course, with narrow flow lines and boily eddies the course was deceptively tricky. It was very short, lasting 65 seconds for the top men, so any mistakes were very costly. The classic race started above the sprint course; went down through the exciting rapids and was then followed by 16 minutes of urmmm flat water. Unfortunate for a wild water race but the organiser had decided to do so to try and attract cross over from other canoe disciplines. We will see if this works for future years (anyone tempted?).

During Sunday to Tuesday the team paddled twice a day, learning the ins and outs of the course. Some finding the eddies more attractive than others! We mainly concentrated on the tricky sprint course,

with different water levels each day the paddlers were always kept on their toes! A couple of sessions on the classic proved enough to learn it. During the off time in the days, the team explored Solkan and to the delight of certain boys they discovered an ice cream parlour that had created 'red bull' flavoured ice cream! Needless to say they visited more than once. In the evenings the team recapped the days paddling with helmet cam footage. Wednesday there was a rest day from paddling with a trip to see the legendary Bovec race course.

The new compact race schedule of just three days meant the team had to work as a tight unit so that everyone was where they should be at a given time. The teamwork on this trip was impeccable, each paddler acting with a highly professional attitude throughout the week. Simply following from the fine examples set by our Olympians!

Race day 1 – included individual classic race followed by the team sprints. All the British athletes attacked the gruelling classic race and finished with personal satisfaction and the knowledge that they could not have physically paddled any harder. The last racers in the MK1 category suffered from a horrendous storm, which swept into the area within a minute of the skies darkening, scary! Fortunately the sky cleared for the team sprint. The team race involves three paddlers racing down together to finish with the fastest time possible, we had entries in the forerunners with the three development girls and a boy's team in the MK1 category. The forerunner girls had a clean run and posted a competitive time compared to the main competitors. The boys

had a solid first run but a mistake on their second run saw them finish in tenth place.

Race day 2 – was the individual sprints. With margins small over this short course two clean fast runs were needed to qualify for the final. Forerunner Grant Underwood had a very tidy run down really performing his white water skills well under racing pressure. Gemma pushed the qualification mark but just missed out and the boys showed learnt lessons on their second race runs after untidy first runs. All the team watched the finals in the evening, taking in the technique and power of the top paddlers. The MK1 was won by a Slovakian paddler who made both K1 flat water A finals and slalom finals at both junior European competitions this year, talk about cross discipline paddling!

Race day 3 – the final day this included a festive local rafting regatta and the team classic race. Team tactics played a crucial part in this event with the flat nature of the river with the boys bettered their placing than their team sprint result finishing ninth. With the forerunner girls (Rachel, Clare and Lucy) also having a great race, improving Lucy's individual time by over 30 seconds.

Individual performance of team paddlers

Gemma Bishop was our sole WK1 representative and achieved a personal best performance in the classic with a 24th placing. In the sprint she really shone, pushing extremely close for qualification spot for the finals missing out by just 1.67 seconds she finished in 15th. A superb finish to her junior career.

For the boys, Scott Finch achieved a fantastic 22nd placing in a highly competitive classic race, with Matt Bishop making an international debut with a 31st placing. Josh Hook was Mr Consistent finishing 34th place for both the sprint and classic races. A very bright future for Matt and Scott who are both only 16 and were right on the edge of top 30 and top 20 performances respectively.

Our forerunner paddlers took a lot from the week, absorbing the championship atmosphere both on and off the water. They will have learnt a lot and be inspired for future years, one to watch!

A great trip and big thanks to all those who helped run it. If anyone is interested in having a go at wild water racing in Britain check out the website for more details www.wildwater.org.uk.

By Hannah Brown



Above: Team.



Above: The juniors.



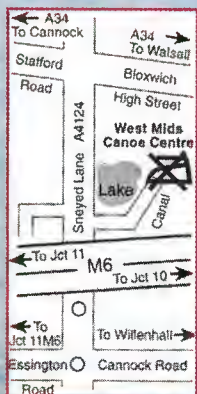
Above: Slovenia.

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Peter Travis – Falcon

Falcon Rowing and Canoeing Club was recently awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK for outstanding work done in their local communities. Any group of two or more people doing volunteering work that is a social, economic, or environmental service to the local community can be nominated for the award.



Peter Travis - the Chair of Falcon Rowing and Canoeing Club 1869 and the Chairman of the Oxford Bangladeshi Boat Club, shares some of the ideas and the work that went on behind the scenes to attain this prestigious award.

How was the club nominated?

It seems to be that the volume of activities and participants was noticed by the local authorities and the Lord Lieutenant Tim Stevenson MBE recommended the club for the award. Nominations are assessed initially at county level then passed to the national panel. The first assessment is undertaken by Lord Lieutenants as they are representatives of the Queen. They are helped by a county assessment panel of leading representatives from the local community.

What does Falcon offer?

Falcon Rowing and Canoeing Club is located in the centre of Oxford and enjoys a really diverse set of demographics. Ten to 15 years ago, the club set out with an aim to run projects to embrace all of these. Examples included the high profile 'Canoeing for Hoodies' project which engaged some 'wild young men' which were engaged by the challenge of the session. Aside from the health benefits, this initiative helped youngsters build confidence and gave them something to do.

A 'Super Seniors' project to attract the older paddler looking for recreation during the day was a spin-off project adapted from a fleet originally purchased as adaptive craft for disabled paddlers. Disability paddling has now been absorbed into the activities of the mainstream club in such ways as the 'pootle' sessions,

For more information visit www.canoe-england.org.uk/volunteers or contact Jack Ford – Canoe England Participation Development Officer. Email jack.ford@canoe-england.org.uk

Rowing and Canoeing Club

which cater for people with learning and physical disabilities of any age and very difficult to organise local recreational groups. The sessions are based around Canadian/open canoes with 12 of them taking out 30 paddlers at a time. This is a great way of including more people and a broader demographic.

Were you successful?

Although these projects were successful, the club quickly realised that it was spreading itself too thinly and that there were not always pathways in our sport for people to continue to develop their interest. The development of the disability project was a good example of this. We felt that building a community club that is open to everybody was the best way to include all these diverse groups of people.



Other actions included examining our pricing structure. We came up with a scale of fees that offered greater discounts as more members of a family joined. The best piece of advice is to develop a true community in the club and a strong structure before you offer it to the wider community.

How does the club run?

On the canoeing side, there is one coach for every 10 members and we are always looking to recruit more. 30 coaches have been trained by the club this year so there are lots of level ones with representatives at each level up to one level 4. This means there are enough coaches to ensure there is not a burn out. These numbers were achieved by haranguing parents and inventing jobs to keep them on the river bank. Coaching is done from the bank so volunteers to run

alongside with bicycles and tow lines are always required. It's a fantastic way to engage parents.

The club is run through a less formal method of 'Moots' which occur where various management groups have shared interests. They are arranged after sessions on the banks, or down the pub. The structure is designed to avoid being too 'top-down' and to include the numbers of volunteers that sit on committees – it's all about the volunteers!

What do your volunteers do?

They undertake a wide range of activities. For instance, there is a tea trolley which groups of volunteers come to operate. From this developed a cake rota which is a fantastic way of bringing the club together socially. Falcon enjoys exploring less traditional routes for retaining volunteers and these usually involve a social element and encouraging involvement from families.

There are troops of parents doing all sorts at the club although the goal is always coaching. The junior club now has a fleet of parents to support it and the parents are moving into becoming paddlers themselves. This is because the same people are not forced into volunteering action week after week and actually stay so engaged that they want to take part themselves.

One project which has been absorbed as a regular feature of club life is the Bangladeshi Canoeing Club. Here, the club works with the biggest Asian community in Oxford to put on annual race. Young people come down with their parents and the competition is very like dragon boat racing. Eighteen teams of eight race and the families all bring amazing food and have a great barbecue afterwards. The event also gets a great response at primary school level.

Are lots of projects essential?

While projects are nice, it is more important to have an empathetic approach, thinking carefully about what your club can do to for an individual by anticipating issues and offering solutions. At present, there are more female club members than young

boys. This is due in part to a changing tent which travels to races around the country with the club and has put an end to changing in the car park. This was something that was really easy to do and not something that was asked for but the best way of encouraging more women and girls is to have some empathy for why they might not be participating. "Boys actually use it now too!" says Peter.

Other adaptations include the running of daytime, weekday sessions. They are successful because lots of people in the area work from home, and women at home with children are also very keen to take part. These sessions ensure the facility is used every day although Thursday, Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday sessions in the evenings remain most popular.

The club has gone from a small, elite group of six people competing at national level to a broad based membership of a club with a wide range of opportunities and pathways to any level of participation and a lifetime of paddling.

What does it mean to be an award winner?

The club is very proud to be part of such a small group of recipients (120 nationwide) and to have our value to the community recognised. Winners of the award receive a certificate signed by Her Majesty The Queen and a domed glass crystal. The Lord Lieutenant from the local county presents the certificate and the crystal to winning volunteer groups. Representatives from the group may also be invited to attend a royal garden party.

The club held its own garden party on 2nd September, where the club was presented with a flag from the cabinet office. They have already received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant and from the city and county councils.

Where does the club go next?

Future priorities are the boat house project – to develop the facilities to increase participation further – just need that first big grant to come in to get the ball rolling....



The National Paddle-Ability awards

With the increased profile of paddlesport for disabled people and the success of GB Paracanoe, the National Paddle-Ability awards was particularly exciting for younger paddlers coming through the programme with aspirations of future Paracanoe success. Canoe England Disability Officer, Clarisse Smith, presented this year's awards with Paddle-Ability Race Organiser Viv Kendrick.



Things to look out for.....

Paddle-Ability Talent Development Sessions: Dates will be announced soon. These sessions are an opportunity for those taking part in Paddle-Ability sprint competition and for aspiring members of the GB Paracanoe team and their coaches, to develop their skills and understanding.

Paddle-Ability Symposium

Early next year Canoe England, in partnership with the Lake District Calvert Trust will be holding a Paddle-Ability Symposium. This two-day symposium gives coaches new to Paddle-Ability and those with more experience an opportunity to share ideas and experiences whilst attending a range of workshops.

For more information visit www.canoe-england.org.uk/our-sport/paddleability or contact Clarisse Smith, Disability Officer on 07702 954949 or email: clarisse.smith@canoe-england.org.uk

This year's men's trophy was awarded to **Matthew Baines of Newark, the youngest member of the GB Paracanoe training group, who has worked hard this year to win the award.**



Above: Endeavour Trophy – Jacob Hage.



Above: Women's trophy winner – Maggie Taylor.

The men's junior A award went to newcomer Tom Jalland. Coach Julie Lowe commented, "Tom only started paddling in March and he has just improved and improved. I'm really looking forward to seeing how he develops over the coming year." Mark Nickson of HYMCOPS (Herts Young Mariners Cheshunt Olympic Preparation Squad) continued to dominate in the junior men's C, winning the award for the second year in a row.

Over the last few years the battle over the women's trophy has been tight switching between Maggie Taylor of Maidstone and Lucy Gardner of Pennine, however the ever-smiling Maggie was to regain the



Above: Men's Trophy – Matt Baines.

From a party to Paddle-Ability

Mark (16) has a diagnosis of Autism and Cerebral Palsy. The latter causes increased muscle tone and a difficulty in control, mostly affecting Mark's left arm and left hand side. Despite these challenges Mark is a regular paddler at the Herts Young Mariners' Base (HYMB).

Mark was introduced to canoeing at a friend's birthday party. He enjoyed it so much that he went more regularly. Initially Mark paddled on a Saturday morning at an adventure club and worked through the Paddle-power Passport stages during school holidays.

Wanting more of a challenge Mark joined the competition squad HYMCOPS. Under the guidance of coach Martin Davies, Mark travels to local and national competitions and competes within the Paddle-Ability section. Mark has twice won the junior men's C Paddle-Ability Award and the Endeavour Award for paddlers who show marked commitment and drive in their paddling.

While other land based team sports are not easy for Mark due to his difficulties with co-ordination, canoeing is a sport he can take part in with others. As well as being fun and a great social activity, it has helped Mark to develop his stamina, his physical condition and improve his posture. He is looking forward to the coming winter season when he hopes to enter a few marathons to build his strength, improve his technique and prepare for next year's sprint races.

As one of the young and up and coming faces in the Paddle-Ability programme we look forward to seeing how Mark develops over the coming years.

Below: Mark Nickson.



Above: Women's most improved – Tara Chettle.

trophy this year. Tara Chettle of Newark, aged only 13 won the women's most improved award for the second year in a row as well as the junior women's award. Tara has only been paddling for four years but continues to improve and improve, regatta race organiser Viv Kendrick has dubbed her 'Miss PB 2012'. The men's most improved award winner was Richard Clay.

Every year Endeavour trophies are awarded to paddlers who have shown commitment and determination to their training and competition activity, this year's Men's Trophy was awarded to Jacob Hage of Newark. Jacob only joined his club this year and has really got his teeth stuck in and embraced kayaking. The women's Endeavour trophy was awarded to Robyn Webb, who, despite a number of setbacks has continued to battle against the odds.

Paracanoe Development Coach Trevor Wetherall commented, "This year has been a great year for GB Paracanoe and Paddle-Ability, seeing so many new faces come through the programme is so positive." Canoe England Disability Officer added, "A huge thank you to all those who ensure Paddle-Ability races run smoothly and I look forward to seeing you all again at next year's regattas!"



Above: Junior A Winner – Tom Jalland.

Safeguarding and Protecting Children important contacts

Canoe England 24-hour Child Protection:

Email: childprotection@bcu.org.uk
Mobile: 07734 453430

(For use by individuals wishing to report incidents outside of office hours).

BCU Child Protection, Vulnerable Adults and Harassment Lead Officer:

Mike Devlin: 0845 370 9514.

Canoe England Child Protection Support Officer:

Nigel Timmins: 07740 820 113

(For BCU individuals who have received an allegation against them with respect to child protection and require support).

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

Tel: 0800 800 5000 (24 hour).

Childline: 0800 1111.

Go Canoeing Guided Tours



With the UK having just endured the soggiest summer for 100 years, many paddlers will be more than used to heading out in unpleasant weather. While taking to the water on glorious summer afternoons may be many people's idea of paddling heaven, it's worth remembering that canoeing and kayaking are sports that can be enjoyed all year round.

In a bid to help more people discover the joys of autumn and winter paddling, Go Canoeing has arranged a series of guided tours running throughout October, November and December.

Go Canoeing Development Officer Jenny Spencer said, "Many people see canoeing as just a summer



sport, but this really is not the case and we want to encourage as many people as possible to give paddling a go in the autumn and winter months. October is a fabulous time of year to be in the great outdoors as the green leaves of summer fade into the burnished gold, copper and russet of the autumnal palette.

"As the nights draw in and temperatures drop, Britain's waterways become a real winter wonderland and can be at their most spectacular at this time of year. Bright blue skies, frosty trees and snow-dusted scenery provide a perfect backdrop for a peaceful paddle, free from the crowds of the peak summer months."

Tours will be held at the following locations and Canoe Focus readers are being offered a special 25% discount on these tours – just enter discount code 'CFDiscount25' when booking a tour online.

- **York City Centre Tour, York**
October 7th, 24th, 29th, 31st and December 16th
- **Liverpool's Albert Dock Tour, Liverpool**
October 14th, November 18th and December 2nd
- **Salford Quays Tour, Greater Manchester**
October 6th and December 8th
- **Burton-on-Trent Tour, Staffordshire**
October 31st, November 3rd and 17th
- **Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre to Trent Bridge Tour, Nottingham**
October 23rd, 25th, November 4th, December 1st and 9th
- **Exeter Canal Tour, Devon**
October 13th, November 18th, December 1st and 16th
- **Norwich City Tour, Norfolk**
October 14th, November 1st, 4th, December 2nd and 16th
- **Windsor to Datchet Tour, Windsor**
October 21st and December 2nd.

To book a tour or for more information visit www.gocanoeing.org.uk and search for the tour you are interested in using our activity search. To keep up to date with all the latest Go Canoeing news, sign up to our mailing list online or follow us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/GoCanoeing, or Twitter, @GOCanoeing.

Club Leaders creating better business skills



Ten thousand community sports clubs now have the chance to develop better business skills thanks to Sport England's innovative new programme, Club Leaders.

Providing free training and support to those doing the day-to-day running of community sport, Club Leaders will help create a robust, economically sustainable and enterprising club network.

Olympic silver medallist, Roger Black MBE, said: "Community sports clubs are the backbone of grassroots

sport and are what help nurture our sports stars of tomorrow. I know first-hand how important the people who volunteer to help run these community clubs are, having seen it not only in my own athletics career but every Sunday when I take my children to play at our local sports club.

People from sports clubs will be able to develop skills in business and financial planning, marketing, governance and facilities management in ways that suit them. There is an interactive website with e-learning modules, face-to-face seminars or people can sign up for one-to-one mentoring."


Sport England Chief Executive, Jennie Price, said: "We asked the people who run clubs what they needed most, and their advice has guided every aspect of the Club Leaders offer: simple, flexible training and advice, delivered locally, and completely free. They are the unsung heroes of grassroots sport, and I am delighted we are able to offer them support as part of the legacy of London 2012."

Club Leaders is being delivered by PwC, whose local staff will share their business expertise with the community sports sector.

The programme is part of Places People Play, the £135 million National Lottery-funded legacy programme that is bringing the inspiration and magic of a home Olympic and Paralympic Games into communities all over the country.

To find out more, visit www.sportenglandclubleaders.com

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In brief

Small Grant Olympic legacy for the Tyne Valley

The anticipated arrival of the Olympic torch in Prudhoe on Saturday 16 June 2012 was the cue to bid for a Sport England Small Grant (£9,800) for Tyne Valley Canoe Club. In tune with the London Olympics the idea was not only to host a free 'come and try' event on the weekend the torch came to town but to create a future legacy by creating interest in canoeing. So using 'Go Canoeing' events the club hosted the come and try event followed by the club offering summer starter sessions. So even though the weather and hence River Tyne water levels have been very up and down the whole programme has been a success involving 15 club coaches and 12 volunteers delivering a programme to 164 members of the public across a whole age range, attracting 44 new club memberships and allowing the purchase of 12 new boats and accessories.



Above: John Dean Tyne Valley CC Chair with the new Equipment.

Coquet Canoe Club 23rd Round the Island Race

A stiff offshore breeze meant a fairly easy crossing, with a fight back against a head wind. The rain helpfully held off until just after the prize giving! Forty-four boats went round the island, with two doubles (each including a disability paddler) and an interesting three-person hand crafted sea kayak from Tyne Valley CC.

It must be one of the closest fought finishes in the race's history. Being an experienced Marathon paddler, Andy Morton wash-hung onto the sea kayaks all the way round and sprinted past Nicky Cresser in the last few yards to the finish line in a time of 46 minutes 43 seconds.

Thanks to the RNLI and Coastguard for Safety support; Coquet Shorebase for additional safety boat cover, and all the club members for the organisation.



Boofest

It was just by chance that while I was walking our dog past the local park I came across a sign on the railings, advertising Boofest. I found out it was an event organised by One Vision Housing association who run this free event at the park as a thank you to the community. I spoke to the housing representative, I explained my role and asked if I could come along to the event. I was given the ok and on the day of the event I arrived with my gazebo and ergos in tow.

There were fairground rides, many stalls and services from the local area. With a few more members from Friends of Allonby Canoe Club turning up to help promote paddlesport and their club, which is only a stone's throw away from where the event was held. Over 130 young people and adults came to our stall to paddle the ergos and to find out more about paddlesport and the local club.

I would like to thank, Mark and family for all their help and Mike Moffat for the ice creams (all from FoA) also One Vision housing for given me the opportunity to promote our sport on my doorstep.
Dave Cook. PDO – North West

Liverpool Paddlesport Mini – Olympics

In early June Liverpool CC met with the North West PDO Dave Cook to see about running a paddlesport Olympics. A date was then set for later on in the month. The club had special permission from Liverpool Marina to set up slalom gates and with these set up the in the morning of the event we were ready. The overcast weather in the morning though did not put off the 25 or so club members who turned out throughout the day.

Liverpool CC had all the paddlesport events, which are in the Olympics for people to have a try at. The most entertaining of these were the high kneel sprint, which had the most swimmers even the PDO fell in! Overall it was a good day and it was great to see people come to the event and have a paddle at different boats they would not normally paddle. If your club would like to set something similar up please get in touch with the North West - PDO, Dave Cook on 0771 886 4477 or email Dave at david.cook@canoe-england.org.uk

Yorkshire School Games



Competitors at this year's School Games events held in both North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire were this year given the opportunity to try their hand at kayak sprint racing using ergo machines.

The machine's proved to be extremely popular with all the athletes attending the games. The youngsters were all able to have head to head races with their friends as well as to try to post a time on the leader board in their year group

categories. All the times were recorded to determine the fastest in their year group.

A great time was had by all at both events, which attended by local dignitaries as well as the Olympic Torch at the West Yorkshire Event and the Olympic Mascots - Wenlock and Mandeville at the North Yorkshire Event.

All the youngsters you attended the event took away certificates with their fastest times on as well as information about 'Go Canoeing' and anyone who made it on to the leader board received a free copy of 'Go Canoeing' magazine as well.

Yorkshire Sprint Series

On 21st July 2012 the final event of the Yorkshire Sprint Series took place at Kelsey Gardens. The event managed to build on the success of the previous events in the series with an increase in the number of people taking part. The weather was glorious on the day with sunshine and light winds creating perfect conditions for sprint racing, competitors seemed perfectly happy to jump into boats that they might otherwise have worried about tipping over, if they did fall in they seemed happy to just float around and cool off for a while.

The event was hosted by Kelsey Gardens who were looking to both promote the venue and also to use the event as springboard for hopefully setting up a new canoe club there in the near future. The event was also supported by Canoe England staff and additional boats being taken to the event by paddlers from Kingston Kayak Club, White Rose Canoe Club and Manvers Waterfront Boat Club.

Everyone who took part from juniors to veterans had a great day and all involved are looking forward to the series hopefully running again next year. Results and details of any future events can be seen on the Yorkshire region website at <http://www.yorcie.org.uk>

Inspired success for Hertfordshire Club

Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club has secured £32,886 of Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund. The club will use the funding to modernise the existing clubhouse, to expand and improve the facilities for both sporting and social purposes. Sport England's Chair, Richard Lewis, said: "This investment will create a fantastic sporting legacy for Hemel Hempstead.

Shirine Voller, the project manager at Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club said, "We are delighted to have secured funding from the Inspired Facilities scheme. The award will enable us to implement a much-needed upgrade of our premises to match the club's recent success in improving the range and quality of our canoe equipment and the opportunities offered to members. It is the

cornerstone of our strategy to have an outstanding club for the 2012 Olympics' legacy."

Local MP, Mike Penning, said, "Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club has been an active supporter of Dacorum Borough Council's preparations for the 2012 Olympics, and it is a just reward that, as a result of the Inspired Facilities grant, the club will be able to offer a sporting legacy long into the future."

Cllr Chris White, Chair of the council's Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, said, "In spite of budget pressures, councils are striving to keep supporting local sports clubs and want to work with them in creating a lasting and meaningful Olympic and Paralympic legacy. This funding will hopefully act as a catalyst to further strengthen local partnerships between councils and sports clubs, getting more people playing sport."



Fit4Work Corporate Games

At this year's Fit4Work Corporate Games, held at the University of East Anglia Sportspark, Active Norfolk was looking for some new challenges for the teams rather than the same old predictable sports. With the ability to hold indoor regatta style racing on the Kayakpro ergo machines and linking a number of machines together via a laptop, the organisers were very keen to have our sport represented at the games.

The format decided on was that of a relay race over a distance of 1000 metres. The rules were that all five of the team members must have a go on the machine and all changeovers were made behind a four-metre line from the machine.

With a team made up of the Local Coaching Organiser Norfolk, the East Regional Development Team rep, an ex-national squad sprint paddler as well as PDO Jeff Toser, 44 teams were put through the machines making a



total of 220 participants! The winners of the kayaking event was Norfolk County Council – Team Redemption, who went on to finish second in the overall competition to a team from the Breckland District Council.

Thanks to Andy Ing, Helen Toser and Kelly Barkway, for their help in setting up, running and breaking down, and making a success of our contribution to the Games. Jeff Toser

In brief

New SDO Team Central Debbie Groom

Hello! I am Debbie Groom, the new Senior Development Officer for Team Central.

I will be working with the fantastic Paddlesport Development Officers, Ben Seal for East and West Midlands and Jeff Toser for the East to help and inspire people to go canoeing.

My background includes working at Snowsport England as a Sports Development Officer for the Team Central area, including being involved with partnership building, club development and strategic planning. In addition to this, I have over ten years experience working within the sporting world, including sports development, the private sector, coaching, volunteering and education including as a Community Sports Development Officer and School Sport Coordinator, linking to many external agencies.

Although I have relatively little experience as a paddler, I am passionate about sport and encouraging more people to get involved and can't wait to get on the water!

With the buzz of the Olympics behind us, the team and I will be working to maximise opportunities for Canoe England including supporting clubs, centres and participants in the region, whilst developing partnerships to grow and sustain the number of paddlers. The team and I have already been on Anglia News, promoting canoeing on the Norfolk Broads!

I am excited to get started and I am sure I will get to meet you over the next few weeks and months.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of Team Central on:

Debbie Groom (Senior Development Officer) :
07718 982091

Ben Seal (East and West Midlands):
07725 277842

Jeff Toser (East): 0791 2597986



In brief

Canoeing fun day

To capture the interest in sport generated from the Olympics a Fun session was quickly arranged for 19th August by Mark Payne of Bath Canoe Club. With six coaches and volunteers helping there had been sixty six paddlers on the water by the end of the day. The sunshine on the Sunday afternoon certainly helped and at one stage there were twenty five people in open canoes, sit-on-tops, Wavehoppers, kayaks and even a coracle. Whilst planning to finish at 4pm there were so many families turning up that the session overran by an hour.

The event was advertised through the club website and emails plus a last minute posting to the Join-In website. The surprise of the day came when the Join-In team arrived and Olympic medallists Sharon Davis and Daley Thompson met our paddlers and with TV presenter John Inverdale joined us for a paddle on the River Avon.



Regional Annual Consultative Meeting

Please note the date for the Regional Annual Consultative Meeting has been set for the 10th November 2012 at Wey Kayak Club. It begins at 13.30 (although there will be a programme of activity before the meeting in the morning, contact Paul Newman paulnewmanpaddlesport@blueyonder.co.uk closer to the date to find out if you would be interested).

This event is open to all Canoe England members, who need to bring membership cards for voting purposes. Please notify all your contacts to ensure good representation. The meeting will also include the Regional Volunteer Presentations and certificates, with nominees being notified by Canoe England.

Go Canoeing brings success in the sun

After cancelling two Go Canoeing sessions because of poor weather and fast flow on the River Avon, Bath Canoe Club finally held its third taster session in good weather on Saturday 11th August.

With twenty seven boats of different types on the water it was definitely a success. The newcomers, ranging in age from four to forty five, were taken downstream to below Pulteney Weir in the middle of Bath where they played games and entertained the crowd in Parade Gardens. Because the Go Canoeing sessions have been such a success, the canoe club will be running an extra one on Sunday 9th September and following it up with its Saturday morning youth group and an additional Introduction to Paddlesport course – the fifth this year.



Above: Go canoeing group on the River Avon.

Mayor makes sure club hits the mark

The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Andrew Furze, accompanied by his wife Mei-Lee visited Bath Canoe Club on Tuesday 24th July to present their Clubmark certificate. During his visit the Mayor was shown the club facilities in the Old Organ Factory and saw week two of the Introduction to Paddlesport course in action.

After meeting with Michael Sims, the Wessex Paddlesport Development Officer, the Mayor presented the certificate and then took up the offer of a short paddle on the River Avon. Once the water session was complete the Mayor was shown the club's small gymnasium and even had a try on a ergo machine. The final part of the evening was a buffet for club members and guests when the Mayor and Mayoress cut the celebratory Clubmark cake.



Above: The Mayor presenting the ClubMark certificate with Michael Sims.

Oxfordshire inspires new participants

During the Olympic weeks Julian Housing teamed up with Oxford Canoe and Kayak Club and the Riverside Centre to run an Olympics themed canoeing event for homeless and mental health agencies in Oxford.

Aiming to get new people from vulnerable communities afloat, the morning gave a brief introduction to paddlesport with an element of competition in the afternoon.

The event has been judged a great success with fifty three people attending which included forty one on the water. Six teams took part from a range of agencies from homeless services, mental health support to asylum seekers. The rafted crew boats worked well with the wide range of participants, inspired underneath Canoe England 2012 banners and Go Canoeing Flutter Flags. Participation certificates were well received and valued especially as some of these groups seldom receive positive and relevant endorsement of their efforts.



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Paddling with

On the Petawawa River

The Petawawa River in Ontario is one of the rivers that features in Bill Mason's books and videos. Many of the rapids and falls are used as examples by him of how to read and run white water. This is one river, which should be on top of your hit list.

Feature by: Strangely the journey down the river started in Quebec at the outfitters where we spent a day sorting out equipment and buying food for our stay on the river. The next day we drove to the put-in at Algonquin Park. At the rangers' office we had to pay park permits and book onto the river but it did give us a chance to buy books and maps of the area.

Dave Halsall.

Although it was the middle of September it was hot work loading the boats and we were glad to get onto the water to cool down. We began our paddle at the foot of the grade 5 Poplar Rapid that runs into Travers Lake and we would finish at the take-out on MacManus Lake; the 'classic route'.

We lunched halfway down the lake on a beach of white sand that was hot to the touch, before paddling off down the lake. The scenery was stunning, a mix of pine, birch and maple. Getting ready for winter the maple leaves were turning from green to all the autumn colours of yellow and red. Away from roads and all habitation we were truly in the wild.

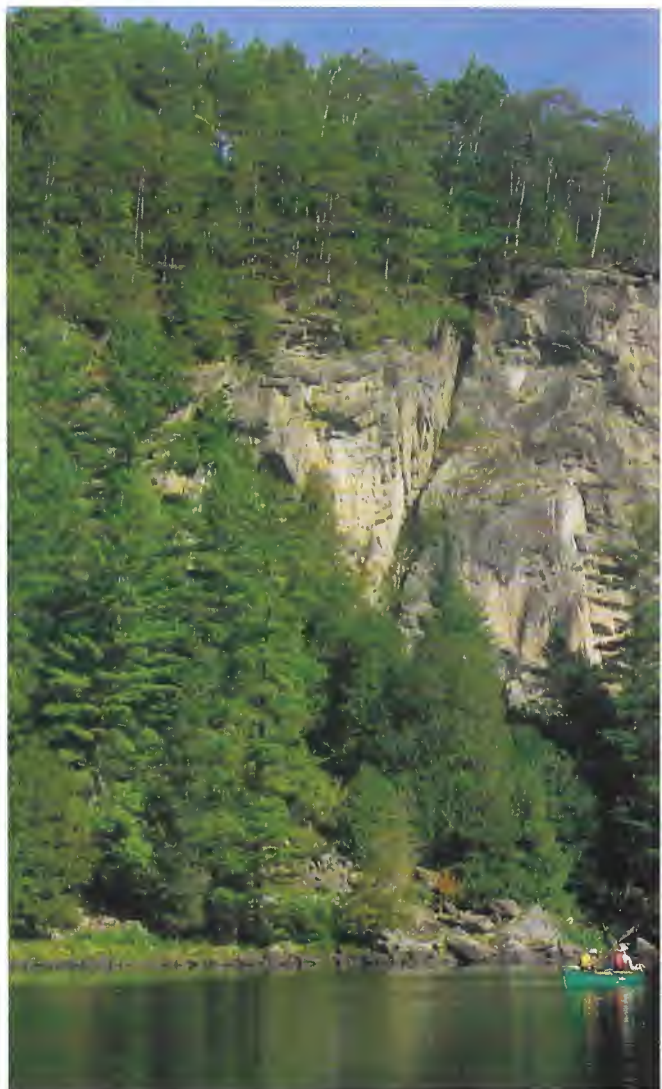
There was a hot breeze blowing across the lake, wafting pine scent from the forest, and as we were now turning to have it on our backs we decided to put up an awning and sail down the lake. We were looking for an easy section down to the night's camp, but once we got the sail up the wind totally dropped! Typical.

We spent the night on an island just before the start of the river and were treated to a glorious sunset with a jet black night, lit by thousands of stars, with the occasional flash of a shooting star.

Travelling down the Petawawa demanded all our river running skills; there were plenty of rapids, graded from 1 to 4, some we could paddle, others we had to line and one we had to portage. The portage was through some tough terrain, which was not helped by it coinciding with our only wet afternoon. We were glad to get into camp which was a memorable damp and smoky evening as the heavens opened.

The only time we saw any other paddlers was at the portage and at the finish, other than that we were very lucky to have the river to ourselves, during the summer it would be busier. The fishing was good, we did eat catfish. Having caught a few and deciding not to eat something so ugly we looked it up in a guide which said

“We were treated to a glorious sunset with a jet black night, lit by thousands of stars, with the occasional flash of a shooting star”



Above: The Natch. Below: Early morning fishing.




Bill Mason



that it was good eating; none were set free after that. It has good firm flesh but the skin is tough to cut and it is mainly head.

The best campsite was just below Natch rapids. We had been advised to make a two night stop at the site and we were not disappointed; the views were stunning. There was time to relax to fish, swim, whittle, drink tea and chat. It was here under another black velvet night sky that our thoughts came back to Bill Mason; he would have stopped at this site, taken water from the river as we had and he would have been astounded by the views. He would be very happy sitting with us discussing the day's paddling and the evening menu and then to pack up and paddle with us to the finish. How lucky to have all this on your doorstep.

This is a wonderful river to paddle, for some years there has been a threat from logging and hydroelectric power production but nothing has been decided so plan your trip sooner rather than later.

For more information on Ontario Tourism and all that the province has to offer, please visit www.ontariotravel.net/uk. 

“Getting ready for winter the maple leaves were turning from green to all the autumn colours of yellow and red”



Above: Dave and Sue on a rapid.



Above: The beautiful colours of the trees turning.

Paddling in September

- The areas are quieter and free from other paddlers
- Outfitters are quiet
- There are fewer flies
- The bears are full, happy, mellow and thinking of sleep
- The day temperatures are in the low 20s
- The colours are amazing

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Rab



Marmot

icebreaker



An Adriatic o

The Michaelmas term at Shrewsbury School in Shropshire started with a sea odyssey for twelve intrepid travellers from the Combined Cadet Force.

Their trip was a culmination of many months of training and preparation, and long sessions in the school pool upside down in a kayak!

Expedition Adriatic Adventurer was a Gold Assessment and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Training expedition for cadets in the contingent. Six of the students had undergone two trips prior to this training up to 3 Star Sea Award level. They had already spent nine days on Anglesey learning about boat handling, loading a kayak, menu planning and nutrition, first aid, sea hazards, radio procedure, emergency procedures, tent pitching and camp craft to name but a few of the topics. In addition they had all learned to roll both a river kayak and a sea kayak, and performed rescues in deep water environments.

The expedition formed part of the CCF Contingents Adventure Training for the year and an adventure it proved to be. The team assembled in Manchester and flew to Dubrovnik, where the first day was spent shopping for provisions or 'victualling' in naval parlance. After a ferry ride to the Island of Lopud, the team were united with a fleet of sea kayaks and started the task of getting ready for their assessments. Planning, briefings and practising skills in the warm water was the order of the first two days.

Meanwhile, the younger group of students none of whom had even sat in a sea kayak before, embarked on a concurrent programme of training in the same skills that the Golds had covered on ice cold Anglesey.

After three days, the teams were ready. The Gold team set off first on their 100km journey along the Croatian Coast, taking in a new island every day. The Silvers were equally ready to undertake training on the move and a practice expedition. With boats packed and every inch of carrying capacity filled with packs of chocolate croissants and bottles of water, the teams launched.

Sunburn, dehydration and sunstroke

You'd think that journeying on the sea in 36 degrees of heat would be a pleasure and probably a little easier than coping with the typical British weather conditions, but in reality it had different challenges. Sunburn, dehydration and sunstroke were all real risks with the boys getting through some seven bottles of factor 50 throughout the



Above: A well earned pizza stop.

11 days. Wearing a hat and sun glasses was not just recommended – it was an absolute necessity! The cadets also suffered other problems, mainly fatigue and blistering on their hands from gripping the paddle. Spending some eight hours sitting in a sea kayak every day for what finished, as being eight days on the water is no mean feat. We did however get the opportunity to swim and enjoy the sea life when things just got too hot.



Above: Listening intently.

“The younger group of students none of whom had even sat in a sea kayak before, embarked on a concurrent programme of training”

dyssey



It was a fantastic trip, and as the leader I can honestly say that the cadets learned more lessons about themselves than it is possible to list. They all returned much better equipped to look after themselves, plan ahead and deal with crises. The difference in personal admin at the end of the trip compared to the beginning of the trip was unrecognisable, and similarly everyone of the twelve cadets without fail grew in confidence. The team was a very disparate group of people from places as far flung as Jamaica and Brunei, turned out to be a solid team, all working together for the same result.

A most successful expedition indeed. ✈



Above: The group.



Above: The group on a lunch stop.

The canoe slalom Olympics

A sideways view by Chris Hawkesworth

As we clambered and clanked our way up the immaculate zigzag metal entrance in the quiet bowels of the main stand at the Lee Valley White Water Centre, I really did not know what to expect next. I had been up since 5.00am to get there. The parking, the buses; the army at security was superbly friendly and efficient and I as a bonus bumped into a couple of dozen friends, colleagues and former Olympians as soon as we entered the main site. The sun shone. Were we actually in Britain?

The gangway levelled out and then we emerged out into the daylight and... WOW and I do mean WOW. We emerged into a cacophony, a cauldron of 15,000 anticipatory spectators mixed with more water noise coming from the course than a Grand Canyon rapid, mixed in turn with an immaculately clear PA system. A big screen and score board was straight in front and more TV cameras on the banks than trees in a forest. They were everywhere from water level to one perched on an aerial cable trolley that ran the length of the course above all the stands. Organised mayhem. I could only speculate what the paddlers were thinking.

I reflected that it was almost 17 years since the BCU had put forward a proposal for a white water course to serve London and the South East. The Lee Valley Park Authority had offered a site and some money. Then Britain won the Olympics. The money came, the site changed, designs were sketched, evaluated, changed, again and again but here it was all £35m plus of it.

The pumps were pumping their 16 cumecs of crystal clear water. The British designed and manufactured rapid blocks that made up the artificial rocks, and other obstacles were making the waves as advertised... and what a nice light blue colour they were too.



When first paddlers came down the course, the atmosphere was absolutely electric. The cheering for the Brits was, well, deafening and then we won the C2 medals – no one wanted to go home. The paddlers paraded up and down the course in front of the stands. To cheers, flag waving, more cheers and more flag waving.

None of this would have happened without BCU staff, volunteers, and past and present paddler input at all levels. We Brits delivered. We did it. We did it well.

Everyone and I do mean everyone should take the credit for an excellent show.

The sleepless nights, the endless travel to and fro, the show, the results were well and truly spectacular. Was it worth it?

My most emphatic answer is yes it is, yes it was, and as one bonus we have a legacy facility second to none in the world and as a second bonus, our sport got superb publicity and all I can say is, "I was there."

WOW.



Big seas and many variables



Feature by: Jeff Allen and Simon Osborne of Sea Kayaking Cornwall run annual trips to the Isles of Scilly, with the idea of paddling back to the mainland at the end. The first few days are spent exploring the Scillies, cruising in to yellow sands over azure seas. Kelp forests below team with marine marvels.

Steve Backshall.

On day three we do a complete circumnavigation of the islands to practice for the crossing; 47km, no landing, eating resting and – yes – peeing in the boat. At times the tide and weather mean we are giving everything to barely stay still. Big seas take their toll on the nerves, never being able to leave the boat means cramps, rubs, blisters and chafing.

We finish in eight hours, and head for the pub to plan the crossing. Charts spill between plates of deep fried Pollack and pints of ‘Proper Job’ Cornish ale. There are so many variables; tidal diamonds, springs and neaps, crosswinds and pressure systems... my brain starts to leak out of my ears.

There is an odd sensation to leaving the comfort of pretty, sunshine-blessed islands, and aiming your kayak out into open sea. We paddle hour on, five minutes break, but the monotony is broken by the wildlife. A single fulmar banks and circles around our boats for hours. A lone bottlenose coasts past, then a sizeable pod of common dolphins leap and play about us. And then a triumph; a leatherback turtle, the only species that can live in these temperate waters, munching jellyfish.

After six hours a cramp in my hamstring means I have to stretch, but first check the GPS and cram my face full of pork pie. We’re making good time, but are in the middle of a busy shipping lane. Fog is forecast to roll in, and if we take too long the tide will swing around and flow against us faster than we can paddle.

It’s then, as the light starts to fade that the wildlife gets really special. First a minke whale and her calf burst up in the middle of us, a basking shark, sunfish, more dolphins... it seems as if the sea is trying to distract us. Finally in the last smudges of the day, the

lighthouse at Longships hoves into view. We should be able to see land now, but it’s cloaked in fog. Concentration now has to be intense. We regularly sound off number by number so as not to lose anyone in the fog and night. We can hear the shore but not see it, so work purely off the compass. Sennen cove is our safe landing, dodging reefs and crashing waves in the dark, the village lights diffuse in the gloom. It’s an edgy end to a perfect day. We shake hands and hug on the beach, overjoyed at what we’ve achieved.

Over the next two days we power back to Penzance; one of the most dramatic paddles in the world, through natural cathedrals, arches and columns rent with wind-carved statues. Skills are tested in amongst the crashing waves of our most iconic coastal cliffs. Basking sharks are everywhere, bold seals track our progress, and we wild camp on deserted coves. Snagging Pollack, bream and mackerel on the hand line gives us dinner. I freedive in amongst the kelp with a spear gun, adding my catch to the barbie.

I’m lucky enough to do trips like this for a living, but this was very special indeed. The southwest of our country is a jewel, and there is no better way to explore it than from the cockpit of a sea kayak. ♡

“And then a triumph; a leatherback turtle, the only species that can live in these temperate waters, munching jellyfish”



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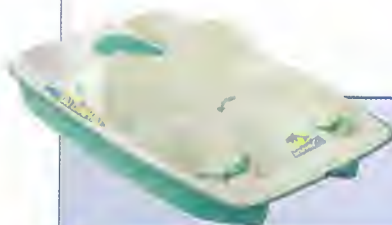
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GB's Olympic ladies their sport of choice

Off the back of GB Canoeing's most successful Olympics ever, Helen Reeves caught up with a three of our female Olympians to find out why they got into canoeing and why others should give it a go.

Angela Hannah and Louisa Sawers were part of the Olympic canoe sprint women's K4 (Kayak four) that made history when they paddled to fifth place in the final, GB's best ever female result in Olympic canoe sprint competition.

Angela only got into canoeing five years ago through a Sport England Talent ID search, prior to canoeing she competed for Zimbabwe at hockey. She describes canoeing as, "fun on water."

What do you love about canoeing?

"I love being on the water! It is a great feeling when the conditions are sunny and still, and you're just going along a river."

Why should women and girls have a go?

"If you like being outside then I would encourage anyone to have a go. There is a boat suited to everyone. It is a great way to explore the stunning river scenery and it's also a fun way to build fitness and strengthen your core and arms."

In contrast to Angela, Louisa started canoeing at a young age at Elmbridge Canoe Club. Her brother John was already taking part so she decided to have a go and tagged along with him.

So what has kept Louisa in the sport?

"The simple challenge of trying to make your boat go as fast as it can from A to B."

Louisa's advice for fellow female paddlers is?

"Get down to your local canoe club and see how many boys you can beat! It's a win/win, as boys don't want to be beaten but it gives us girls a massive confidence boost when we do!"

On the other side of Olympic canoeing is Lizzie Neave, GB's sole female representative in London in the canoe slalom. The former World and European bronze medallist got into canoeing through her dad and was on the water learning the ropes aged eight.

We asked Lizzie what it is about canoeing that she loves:


"It's a challenging but exciting sport where there is always a different river to paddle, or a new technique to master."

And what has kept her in the sport for 16 years?

"Mostly I just love paddling. But also the desire to get better at canoeing and be successful."

So in Lizzie's opinion why should you have a go? "Canoeing is a sport where there are so many disciplines, that there is something suitable for everyone.

Paddling is a good fun way to get, or stay fit, and a very sociable sport which can be done recreationally or competitively. And finally it's fun, exciting and diverse"

From speaking to GB's leading ladies one thing is for sure, canoeing is fun! So why not give it a go and if you are already paddling then why not use some of these arguments to try and persuade your friends? 



on why canoeing is



Royal Leamington Spa women/girls training days

Royal Leamington Spa will be offering three one off training days for women/girls on the following dates;

Sat 3rd Nov; Sat 8th Dec and Sat 5th Jan 2013. Starting at 9.30 and off the water at 4.00pm. The cost will be £7.00

The days are for novice competitors, or anyone that has aspirations to compete in racing canoes, C1 C2 and C4. Equipment will be provided, single and crew boats, with experienced paddlers to help out. Experience is not required, only the commitment to compete.

Enquiries to Tibor Herbert, RLS, email; tibor@herbert.co.uk or 02476 592247.



Do the big loop

As paddlesport coaches based in Shrewsbury we spend a great deal of time paddling Shrewsbury's two-mile River Severn loop. From this small loop, the idea of paddling a much bigger loop was born: 'do the Big Loop' – a 500-mile journey to be completed in a ten day window.

Feature by:
Jamie and Alastair
Drummond.

The journey was undertaken in July and August 2011 and started at Shrewsbury Weir. The challenge comprised paddling down the River Severn, out through the Bristol Channel and around the Welsh coast to Aberystwyth. A cycle then run to the summit of Plynlimon and on to the source of the Severn followed. The river was then followed on the bike to the head of navigation and the Loop completed with a final paddle back down the River Severn to Shrewsbury Weir.

Ironbridge and Jackfield rapids

The journey was undertaken using sea kayaks and carrying with us all our essential camping equipment for the expedition. Starting at lunch time our journey took us through Ironbridge and Jackfield rapids and on past Bridgnorth. Fading light forced an overnight camp at the Unicorn pub, Hampton Loade. A low river had meant a hard afternoon/evening of paddling.

On the second day we finished the natural part of the river and commenced the canal section. Thanks go out to a couple of helpful lock keepers who locked us through. We shot one weir but did have to portage a couple of locks, which made for extremely hard work, due to poor egress provision for small craft. We bivvied the night just below Hawbridge well on our way towards the lower reaches of the river.

We continued on, over the final weir, onto the tidal stretch of the River Severn, sticking to the river itself rather than taking the short cut down the Sharpness Canal. We followed large meanders through enormous sand flats and awesome scenery and into the Severn bore territory. We had a quick stop off at Newnham to stock up with water, then back on the river. We could see the first Severn Crossing way off in the distance. The tide changed without much warning and forced an urgent ferry glide to the bank to avoid a rapid return to Gloucester! Miles of sand flats flooded within minutes.

Struggling through thick mud with laden kayaks we sat out the flood tide. We carried on to the first Severn Bridge with the outgoing tide, camping the night under the bridge. The access here, 'Beachley Slipway', is an important egress for small craft which has been under threat in recent years.

Bristol Channel

After a surprisingly peaceful night's sleep under the Severn Bridge we had an early start, on our fourth day, to catch the tide to flush us down the estuary towards the Bristol Channel.

Passing under the enormous second Severn crossing, this was the last of the bridges for some time, until back on the Severn. We almost managed to paddle around Sully Island before the tide turned; no competition, the tide won - time to retreat behind the island for a break. We recommenced paddling in late afternoon, in strong winds and a rough sea, making it to Aberthaw power station. A square concrete sea defence provided a perfect bivvy spot for the night.

Day five commenced with another early start to catch the best of the tide. We headed across Swansea Bay, in poor visibility but much calmer seas. The day finished just passed Worms' Head, at Rhossili Bay, in near darkness. Having covered a lot of miles, we finished with a wet end to the day, paddling through the surf to bivvy in the dunes beyond the beach.

Porpoises

Day six brought our biggest open crossing of the journey so far: Carmarthen Bay. But first an 8km paddle directly out to sea to avoid the military no go zone and the live firing range, enforced by the border control boat. We caught sight of porpoises which was a pleasant break in paddling. We eventually finished the crossing around Caldey Island, and ended the day camping in a secluded bay just shy of Milford Haven.

Rough seas, wind and low visibility gave rise to an anxious crossing of Milford Haven, on our seventh day. Paddling in big swell and avoiding the tankers travelling in and out (!) we paddled on through Jack Sound Skomer (just before the tide turned against us) into the relative calm of St Brides Bay. But, not for long... Crossing the bay was rough – very rough! A lone puffin momentarily joined us to inspect our slow progress towards Ramsay. Working on a compass bearing, with wind against tide making conditions very choppy, we eventually reached Ramsay Sound (the infamous bitches) and paddled into White Sands Bay for a well earned break. We finished the day in slightly calmer seas, paddling past spectacular sea cliffs and caves, to camp at Abereddy – cold, wet, tired and hungry.

Followed by a solitary seal

Our eighth day brought calmer seas and we negotiated Strumble Head with relative ease, entering into Cardigan Bay and following the coast line into Fishguard. All the while we were followed by a solitary seal, which must have been in tow for several miles. We stopped briefly to replenish supplies and energy. To continue on we had a long trek out to sea due to the low tide. We paddled onwards in poor visibility, which thankfully cleared to reveal more spectacular sea cliffs and on paddling past Cardigan Island we encountered a school of dolphins playing in the tidal eddies. It was a long day that finished near Aberporth, making camp on a sandy beach. For the second day running, trying to squeeze extra miles out of the day we paddled past perfect camp spots. Heading further for beaches marked on the map only to find them flooded by the spring tide making landing impossible. Pitch black, the only option was to paddle back to one of those perfect camp spots some distance back up the coast.

We started the home straight of the salt water leg of the Big Loop on day nine. This comprised a morning's paddle into Aberystwyth harbour, with splendid sea cliffs, dolphins and crazy

“The tide changed without much warning and forced an urgent ferry glide to the bank to avoid a rapid return to Gloucester!”



sheep grazing on near vertical grass slopes overhanging the sea. The afternoon was spent sorting and drying kit (at last!), followed by fish and chips for tea – by the sea.

On day ten we cycled from Aberystwyth Harbour up the long incline to Eisteddfa Gurig. On reaching the summit we parked the bikes for the dash up to the summit of Plynlimon and then on, by foot, to the source of the River Severn.

We then followed the Severn Way to Nant Melen and continued on to Welshpool, following the river closely all the way. We camped overnight at the Green Dragon pub, with good pub food and a decent night's rest. Up early on our final day we started with a further than desirable portage to reach the river. Once on the river we commenced the final long haul into Shrewsbury. We were interrupted by several tree blockages that required negotiating. This seems to be a feature of the river in these parts in more recent years. We continued on through very familiar waters, and paddled around the "loop of Shrewsbury" - the original inspiration behind do the Big Loop, which we finally completed in the early afternoon as we paddled under the last of some 60 bridges up to Shrewsbury Weir and home. 🐟



The darkness deepens

Eighteen months ago I published a booklet in which I claimed that 'historically there was a public right of navigation on all usable non-tidal unregulated rivers' and that 'this right has never been extinguished'. The reaction by those opposed to public access to rivers has been to attack the messenger and not the message. No one has disputed these two statements. No case has come to the courts where the matter could be resolved.

Statute law and Case law show that there is a public right of navigation on all usable rivers. However some people still cling to the idea that most unregulated rivers are private. They quote from the outdated law books. These law books were written before the House of Lords decision in 1991 that the law relating to access on rivers is not the same as the law relating to access on land. [A-G v Brotherton [1992] AC 425]

While the Olympics gave an opportunity to provide more facilities for sport and recreation the potential use of 40,000 km of unregulated rivers seems to have been ignored.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Department seems to be unable to understand the importance of establishing the legal right of access on rivers in the same way that it has been established for footpaths and bridleways.

While the Department accepts that participation in sport and physical activity provides significant benefits, it claims that access to the unregulated rivers should be by means of access arrangements. However during the last two years it has done nothing to promote them.

There is in the Ministry a legal opinion as to the correctness of my work. The Ministry has refused to publish it.

The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has a statutory responsibility 'to promote recreation on rivers where appropriate'. However they have reduced their work to promoting recreation on the few sections of the rivers which they own or manage. Thus in a review of the river channel of the Sussex Ouse the Agency is giving no consideration to the use of the river for recreation.

While the old Law Books stated that a right to use an unregulated river could be created by historic use or dedication the Agency now states that where there is no statutory authority to use a river each user must obtain permission from the riparian owners. [Helen Sillitto, EA Solicitor e-mail 14/08/2012.] They have thus accepted the Fish Legal claim that historic use can not establish a public right of navigation without first consulting other interested organisations.

Natural England

The law relating to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) positively discriminates against those who seek the agreement of land owners for canoeing on rivers where a public right is disputed. If a river in a SSSI is paddled without the permission of the land owner no Natural England permission is required. However if a land owner wishes to give people permission to use the river for boating he must first advise Natural England and gain authorisation for that use.

Conclusion

The law is so unclear that no one is able to state on which unregulated rivers there is a public right of navigation. We may hope that the darkest time of the night is just before the dawn.

Comments about the present state of the law are welcome at caffyn@tiscali.co.uk

The Rev'd Dr Douglas Caffyn

Greening canoe clubs – can you help us?

We are hoping to produce some information to assist canoeists/clubs and centres to Go Green and we would like to know what practical things you have been able to do. If you have any information, as well as, helpful hints and tips please do contact us at access@canoe-england.org.uk so we can use them in case studies to help others. We would really appreciate your help.

We all like to canoe and kayak on clean seas, lakes and rivers, and so it's in all our interests to do what we can to minimise our impact on the environment. Some of the benefits of going green are:

- **Protecting our environment** – we want to enjoy our surroundings when we go out on the water so we all need to play our part.
- **Saving money** – saving energy and water, and recycling more can save hundreds, even thousands of pounds a year.
- **Complying with environmental legislation** – keeps your club on the right side of the law.
- **Meeting expectations** – many organisations now have environmental policies and your members may expect you to put measures in place.
- **Publicity** – local press love good news stories. Shouting about the improvements externally will raise your profile and attract new members.

How have you gone green? Waste management

All clubs produce waste which needs to be stored properly and then taken away. But where is 'away'? The UK dumps more waste into landfill than any other EU state and at the current rate we'll run out of landfill space by 2016. What's more, as waste decomposes it produces methane, a 'greenhouse gas' which is 24 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

What have you done to minimise waste? Pollution control

Pollution can occur at canoe clubs from a variety of sources; oily runoff from car parks, toxic cleaning products used on or near the water. Pollutants can have a devastating effect on the environment; some are absorbed by marine organisms and enter the food chain, whilst others may harm species and habitats.

What have you been able to do to minimise this at your club/centre? Energy efficiency

Most of us get our energy from fossil fuels, in other words coal, oil or gas, however we know that fossil fuels will not last indefinitely and that burning them leads to the release of carbon dioxide which as a greenhouse gas contributes to climate change. Using energy more efficiently helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as save money for clubs. Have you put in solar panels? What have you done to make the club/centre's use of energy more efficient and financially beneficial?

Water efficiency

Despite the recent wet weather the UK has less available water per person than most other European countries. Each person in the UK uses about 150 litres of water a day but this consumption level is not sustainable in the long-term. Our increasing population, as well as climate change, mean that the UK will face increased water stress in the future.

Reducing water use will also help you save money. Remember that water is paid for twice; firstly for supply and secondly for waste water treatment.

What has your club done to help save water... have you for example?

- Fitted cistern displacement devices in toilets (not if you already have a dual flush toilet) and save one litre per flush.
- Fitted water butts to collect rainwater that can be used for washing down boats. Intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) hold 1,000 litres and can be stacked one on top of the other.

The above are just a few areas we would like to know what you have done or are planning to do. There may be many more areas we have not considered so do include them too.



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Access: what are we as

In England and Wales, unlike elsewhere in the world, the public cannot assume there is an automatic right to have access to most rivers. The law is unclear and complex with navigation acts remaining on statute and these along with historic rights being disputed by opponents to public access. People are incredulous when they are made aware of this situation and the reason behind why the Rivers Access Campaign was established.



The campaign objective is to secure a right of responsible access to and along inland waters. It is also a matter of public interest for many in the UK when Scotland already enjoys that right.

The Rivers Access campaign policy is to promote this need for access and continue:

- To investigate the existence of, highlight and seek the restoration of, historic rights of navigation where they exist.
- The campaign for a statutory right of access to inland waters in England, if required.

Access to, and along inland waters is essential as the natural resource for canoeing. RAC is a campaign to bring about change for the clarity and a certainty of public rights to all waterways whilst taking environmental matters into consideration. It is a myth that what we are asking for is for 'free access' in the sense that we do not make a financial contribution.

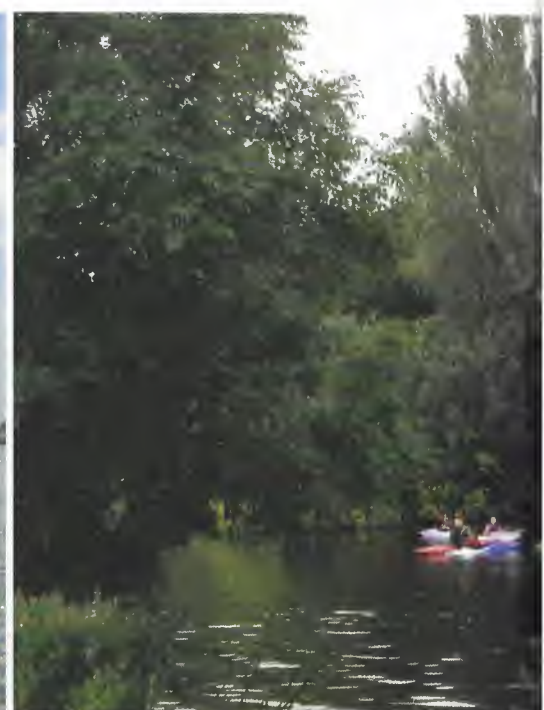
Canoeists, just like other boaters pay for licences where required by navigation authorities and a service is provided i.e. the Environment Agency, Canal & Rivers Trust and many other navigation bodies. It is also a fact that boating and navigation interests to include canoeists have been instrumental in fund raising to restore many canals and waterways.

On navigations and waterways where there are no services i.e. River Wye, River Severn - boaters do not pay. Similarly, no direct charges apply for users of the thousands of miles of public footpaths and bridleways. The Rod Licence apart, anglers are able to fish free of charge at many locations around the country.

RAC also has a view on the management of the water environment largely funded through local and general taxation and water industry bills. The growing number of Water Framework Directive projects for improving the water environment have benefited from a £92 million government-funding package.

An Environment Agency report on the Progress in Delivering the Fisheries Strategy (November 2008) drew attention to the lengths of rivers and canals supporting breeding populations of native fish increased, stating "The length of river complying with the freshwater Fisheries Directive has increased by 1,426km. This is as a result of the investment from water companies of £3.5 billion in improvements to 3,500km of rivers and 300km of coastal waters." Other funding from the public purse for water environment improvement schemes have come from EU and DEFRA grants, the Lottery etc.

Such funding can often enhance the financial and amenity value of particular sectors - landowners, fisheries and stocks in quantity and species, plus the income from fishing rights. Such holdings are mostly in private ownership and marketable. It is evident that enhancing the water environment and habitats can cause other interests to challenge public access.



king for?

RAC believes there is a compelling case for public funding for water environment projects to be conditional in providing secure public access as a benefit in kind for the wider community.

The principle and contribution of public funding for recreation has been recognised by the former DEFRA minister for Diversity, Barry Gardiner MP who was also responsible for inland waterways. He stated in the foreword to the DEFRA consultation document 'Outdoors for All' May 2006:

"Most facilities for outdoor recreation are paid for to some extent by national and local taxpayers and we want to make sure that everyone has the same opportunities and that we reduce any barriers to enjoying what is on offer."

Dee Access Agreement – 30th August 2012

Several of our members have asked questions about an 'access agreement on the River Dee' which has been circulated. Canoe England has had notification of it but has had no involvement with the proposed 'agreement' nor at anytime were they contacted to comment on it. It appears to be a private arrangement and not involving the BCU or one of the home nations. The section under discussion is in Wales and therefore comes under the auspices of Canoe Wales. Canoe England would not enter into discussions on any 'agreement' that is within the boundary of Wales. The River Dee is well documented as having a historic right of navigation.



To remind you of the facts and figures concerning waterways and navigations we republish the following.

Water Based Sport & Recreation: the facts

The following extract from the University of Brighton study 'Water Based Sport and Recreation: the facts (2001)' commission by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs identifies:

The linear water resource in England and Wales represented by:

- 41,150 miles (68,310km) major and minor rivers totals.
- 1,395 miles (2,317km) of which have public rights of navigation / access.

Less than 4%* of the linear river resource in England and Wales has any public access or rights of navigation.

*2% if watercourses less than three metres in width are taken into account

Water Based Sport & Recreation: the facts

The water sport and recreation resource

4.1 The inland water resource – canals and rivers

4.1.1 This chapter assesses the scale, location and nature of the inland water resource in England and Wales. The main source of data used in the chapter is the GDSS. Analysis generated by the GDSS is also supplemented by information from stakeholder interviews, expert panels and the findings of previous studies. Section 1.7 Table 1.1 defines the different types of inland waters.

4.1.2 Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 indicate the lengths of inland canals, major and minor rivers in England and Wales. The GDSS analysis focused on the 17,705km major rivers and 2,361km canals, which together constitute 30% of the inland linear water resource in England and Wales.

Table 4.1 Inland water resource:
rivers and canal lengths (km)

	Major rivers	Canals	Minor rivers	Total
England	14,862	2,307	42,740	59,909
Wales	2,843	54	7,865	10,762
England and Wales	17,705	2,361	50,605	70,671

Source: GDSS

4.1.3 Table 4.2 shows the lengths of rivers with public navigation rights and canals available for navigation in England and Wales. This mirrors the finding of 'Waterways of Tomorrow' (DETR 2000) which estimated there are about 4,700 km fully navigable non-tidal inland waterways. Canals account for a little over half of the available public navigations in England and Wales, which are shown in total in Figure 4.2. The footnote to Table 4.2 indicates that three river sections available for public navigation are excluded mainly because navigation is only possible by small craft such as canoes. These three river sections with navigations total 138km (see Section 1.7, Table 1.1 for a further discussion).

Table 4.2 Inland water resource:
rivers with public navigation rights and canals (km)

	Canals	Rivers with public* navigation rights	Total
England	2,307	2,001	4,308
Wales	54	178	232
England and Wales	2,361	2,179	4,540

Source: GDSS *excludes 138km of navigation on the upper Wye, Lugg and upper Severn navigable only by small craft

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More information along with the terms and conditions is available at www.canoe-england.org.uk/about/photo-competition. The winners are announced on page 7.

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You can see all the entries for July and August at:
www.facebook.com/canoeengland



Above August adult winner: Paula Shaw - Newark Canoe Club's trip to Newark We



Above: Bryan Fennell - Ben Craig on Hurley Weir at one gate using a tow in we made up.



Above: Bill Richmond - Poole Harbour - PHCC August evening paddle.



Above: Paul Thwaites - evening paddle at Creeksea in Essex on the River Crouch.



Above: Neil Adcock - Woodmill Outdoor Activities Centre Youth Canoe Club. Being launched off our rollers



Above August Olympic winner: Jai Padhiar - volunteer's-eye view at Lee Valley.

tion



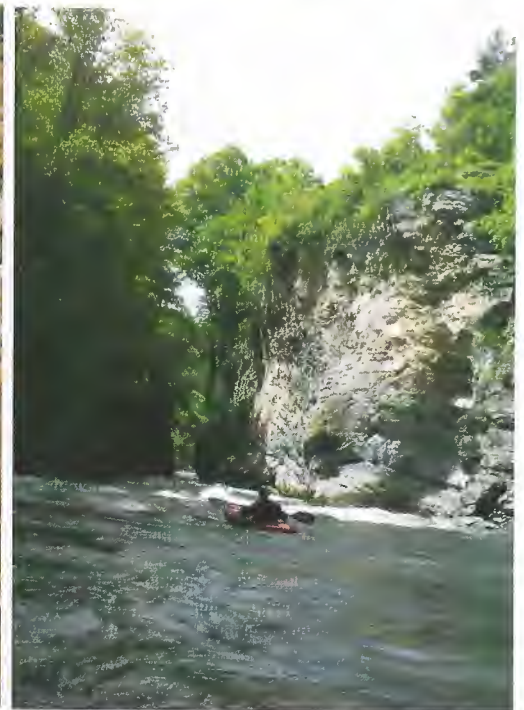
Above July adult winner: Dean Gatley - Jordan at Llangollen.



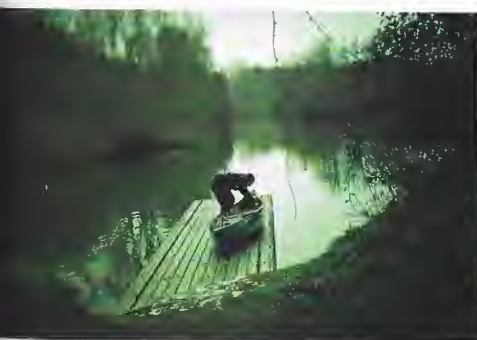
Above: Julie Elworthy - Soca River, Slovenia.



Above July adult winner: Andrew Riley - Allt Mheuran, off the Etive in Scotland.



Above: Alec Ferris - Ubaye Racecourse.



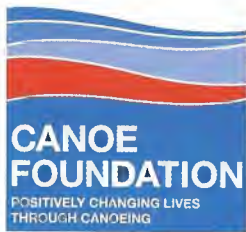
Above: Peter Jones - Chris Guest at Yalding, Kent.



Above: Tania Brookes - Rosie Broadbent and Adrian Stretch on River Dee.



Above: Tim Harlow - Meridian Canoe Club on parade at Yalding Weir.




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By the time this issue of Canoe Focus lands on everyone's doormat, we will all be back to some kind of normality following the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is great to have seen the levels of exposure our sport has received following what was a successful summer, and even more exciting is the sight of more people getting out on the water up and down the UK.

New figures:

In the August edition of Canoe Focus we included figures for the number of projects and individuals who had benefitted from Canoe Foundation grants over the past nine years. However, since then the Charity's Small Grants Panel has received the next batch of applications, as well as confirming details of those which were going through the application process at the time of writing. The upshot of this is that we have now supported a total of 179 projects throughout the Home Nations and overseas awarding total grants worth £184,221.16 which has contributed towards 'positively changing lives through canoeing' for 35,000 individuals!

New processes:

As the Canoe Foundation continues in its development, we are constantly looking to improve, how we do things, and our Grant Application process is no different. From September 2012 we introduced new Application Forms, Guidelines and Procedures, which came into immediate effect. For more details about these changes, or if you are thinking of applying for a Grant, then check out the Charity's website: www.canoe.foundation.org.uk

Join in:

For further information about the Charity in general take a look at our website www.canoe.foundation.org.uk where you will find Case Studies from some of the projects which have previously been supported, all our latest news, and details of how you can support the work of the Canoe Foundation. Regular updates can also be found through our social media accounts – so why not 'like' the Charity's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/canoe.foundation) or follow us on Twitter by searching @CanoeFoundation

Fundraising:

Don't forget, we rely on your generous donations and fundraising efforts for us to continue our work. Canoe Foundation Development Officer Simon Hitchcox recently raised money for the Charity, being sponsored to run the Nottingham Half Marathon at the end of September. Further details about his efforts are available on the Charity's website. We would love to hear from clubs, centres or individuals about how you could help raise funds for the Canoe Foundation.

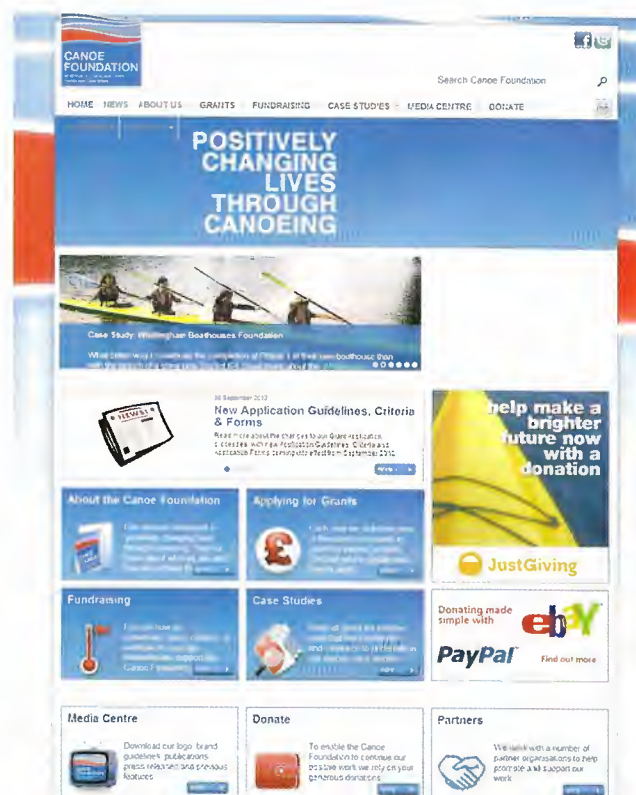
Other news:

The Canoe Foundation is delighted to announce that once again they will be partnering the Canoe England Volunteer Awards, sponsoring the awards associated to two of our key areas 'Young Volunteer of the Year' and 'Impact to Disability'. The event will be held on Saturday 27th October 2012, and further details can be found in the Volunteer section of this month's Canoe Focus.

Get in touch:

You can contact us by e-mail info@canoe.foundation.org.uk phone 0300 011 9502 or post to Canoe Foundation, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottinghamshire, NG13 8AP.

Until next time, thanks for your support and happy paddling!



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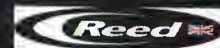
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Tamsin Green Women's HP surf kayaking World Champion

I first got into canoeing... when I was 11 and went on school camp. My parents then bought me a Green fiberglass Sprit kayak which I stuck eyes on and called Nessie, I've never looked back since!

A typical day, for me, is... I try not to have typical days although I am up every morning in the gym or swimming unless there is surf in which case that is squeezed in before work – daylight permitting. I can get a bit surf obsessed so I do try to mix it up with some mountain biking and road biking for

variety. I guess the one thing you can guarantee about me is that I will do some sort of exercise every day.

My best canoeing moment ever...

Winning the World Champs for me was a huge goal which I had work really hard for and is definitely my best competition moment. Surfing wise I guess it has to be scoring Sanur Reef in Bali, epic!

My real guilty pleasure is... Hum... I am not sure as I tend to eat chocolate in a guilt free way!

I'm scared of... earwigs, as a child I seemed to end up with them in my socks a lot. It has left permanent scars, oh and freefall - I am rubbish at jumping off things.

My ultimate goal in life is... I don't think I have one ultimate goal or maybe I just can't say it out loud. I think being happy with whom you are and what you have is pretty important though. I try and live in a pink fluffy cloud of happiness and optimism as much as possible which can be quite irritating for others at times!

An ideal night out for me is... in the van with a BBQ and friends preferably looking out to sea watching the sun set after a good surf.

This year I'm most looking forward to... so many things. I love all adventures big or small and have lots of plans. Surfing-wise I am looking forward to the winter swells to play on some of our bigger reefs. I am also looking forward to doing some more comps including the Brits and home international in October, and the Worlds next July.

Follow Tamsin at: Hum.. I am hard to follow as I am slightly IT phobic out of work although I am on Facebook now!



Jon Schofield, Go Canoeing Marketing and Communications Officer

I'm Go Canoeing Marketing and Communications Officer. This involves a range of duties, including writing press releases to promote the initiative, keeping the website up to date, and managing the Go Canoeing social media accounts.

The most challenging aspect of my role is... is probably just the sheer volume of work! I only started the role in April, just as Go Canoeing was launching, and the whole team have been extremely busy in developing the initiative and spreading the word about what a fantastic project Go Canoeing is.

But, my favourite part is... is working with a great team. It's been a steep learning curve and a busy time, but there is a real sense of camaraderie and we've all pulled together to ensure Go Canoeing is as good as it can be. We're proud of what we've achieved so far and the aim now is to make Go Canoeing even bigger and better in 2013.

I first got into canoeing... at secondary school. We used to live close to a canal and as my dad was a teacher he'd borrow canoes from the school's outdoor pursuits centre every summer holiday. I have some very fond memories of long summer days messing about on the water.

A typical day, for me, is... involves drinking lots of tea. The rest of my job is so varied it's difficult to say what is typical.

My best canoeing moment ever was... was watching the Men's C2 final at this summer's Olympic Games. Watching the race in the BCU office there was a great atmosphere and after Tim Baillie and Etienne Stott set such a blistering pace as the first boat down the course it was a real nail-biting experience watching the other paddlers trying, and failing, to match their time. Then watching Richard Hounslow and David Florence setting off last and knowing Britain had at least won a Gold medal was a fabulous feeling. Winning gold and silver was even better.

When I'm not working... I'm watching football... or playing football... or talking about football... or reading about football.

I'm most looking forward to... Wolverhampton Wanderers getting promoted back to the Premier League.

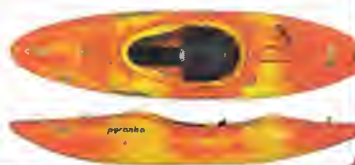


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