

# TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



MARCH/APRIL 2010

## *Cumbrian Odyssey* *March 7th 2010*



*The Odyssey leader in his magicians hat searching for the lair of Bownessie*

The Waterborne Warriors were:

Albert, Kath, Janet, Leigh, Marlene, Suzanne, John, Cynthia, Curly (Dave) and Richard.

I awoke to a thick hoarfrost, which covered the land like a sprinkling of diamond dust sparkling in the hazy sunshine of a late winter's morning. It had been a restless night, filled with dark foreboding. My only consolation was that there were others, scattered across the tranquil plains of Lancashire, who shared my disquietude. Like me, they arose on this day of reckoning, knowing that their actions could either define their very existence or become a chilling epitaph for the entertainment of those of timid hearts.

I loaded my vessel of choice and drove my carriage north into the wilds of Cumbria, where I joined my brave associates in our horrid quest. It was a mission that had claimed the life of many a good soul. Those who had survived the ordeal had lived out the remainder of their wretched lives in a deranged world of hellish nightmares.

Since the times of the famed Brython warriors, man has sought to find and defeat the beast of Windermere. As we readied ourselves at Waterhead, we knew that nothing could prepare us for our date with destiny, our search for this ancient monster of the deep, this devourer of brave human flesh and tormentor of the craven hearted. The hunt was on for BOWNESSIE.

We gathered on the shoreline and scanned the horizon. It was a perfect day for the hunt, calm, mirror like waters that would betray the movements of our submerged adversary. The distant snow capped mountains were a thing of singular beauty, but their icy coating spoke of their isolation and bleakness, chillingly reflected deep within our own heavily burdened souls.

As we launched our craft there was a strong purposeful silence amongst us, for this was not a time for empty words but resolute decisive action. A nod, a knowing look one to the other and we set off.



We scoured the northern section of the lake, staying close to land in the hope that the ogre would be lured into the shallows to feed. Ten sleek, colourful boats were surely enough to tempt the monster up from the deep for a good hearty meal. Then we struck a course down the western coast because legend has it that this amphibian beast would oft times wander the forests of that shore to hunt for unwary landlubbers. Unfortunately, this tack proved fruitless and we were left with only one course of action.

We had to play our trump card, a most dangerous ploy but one that would surely provide the ultimate bait. We stopped for lunch!

Landing on the edge of the forest, we sat ourselves on the prone wooden handle of a giant axe, discarded long before by an ancient Cumbria colossus who had vainly fought the leviathan. Spreading our feast before us, we knew that it could not fail to be attracted by such epicurean delights. Would it go for Janet's juicy buns or Kathy's fruity cake? Trepidation filled our hearts and our appetites were lost (except Warrior Queen Janet's of course). However, the expected attack came from a different quarter. Three giant robins, with flame red breasts, charged from the east.

Taken completely off guard, we turned on them as one and assaulted them with all manner of uneaten provisions. Our concerted effort proved victorious as their appetites were eventually sated. They flew back into the forest and the danger was averted.

After the battle, Suzanne refreshed the flagging company with a bag of chocolate Wuthers and then we determined to resume our quest.

The final plan involved crossing the lake at one of its widest and deepest points. According to local folklore, this is the approximate whereabouts of the monstrous denizen's lair. If he was lurking there, surely we could entice him to the surface to do battle. Could he possibly match the killing power of a Lendal Kinetic, the bludgeoning force of a Nordkapp or the rapier like finish of a Werner? Our weapons at the ready, we set off.



On the crossing, one of our number became a little anxious (who wouldn't be?) and so we closed round in a tight protective formation and paddled eastwards with the prospect of unimaginable dangers ahead.

At this point the unknowing reader might ask if there was any fear amongst us? The answer my friend is an unequivocal NO, because we are the T.E.A. Society and though danger

stalks our every undertaking, we meet it together and together we prevail, as we have done from the days of yore when we took to the waters with the legendary Sir Thomas Byrne of Prijon.

Alas, on this occasion, our scheme proved to be ultimately futile and sadly our mission had to be aborted, so we repaired to the relative safety of the shore and had a chocolate dip ice-cream!

So this time, we were unable to lure Bownessie from his sunken lair, and so for the time being the people of the lake will be resigned to remain in a state of constant fear. However, one day we will return and finally bring a lasting peace to this troubled, frightened land.

We are the T.E.A. Society (Tourers, Explorers and Adventurers), a group of able kayakers who enjoy a social paddle on a regular basis. We have no leader, as we are responsible for each others welfare whilst on the water. The things that are important to us are: a pleasant paddle, good company, a hearty lunch and possibly a drink at a local hostelry at the end of the day. IF you think that you've got what it takes to join us on our further adventures, then keep an eye on the Forum and the Calendar. You will be more than welcome!

***Richard Collins - Photographs  
courtesy of Dave AKA Curly***

## ***Booking Equipment***

A reminder to any members wanting to borrow club equipment  
Please remember to follow the standard booking procedure, which is:

- Ring me on a Monday evening (contact details in Newsletter)
- Collect and return kit at H&D on a Tuesday evening.

Easy!

**Happy Paddling  
Albert**

# Training

**Alan Hacking**

Summer is fast approaching and we are once again running courses aimed at both beginners and improvers in the world of kayaking & canoeing, if you don't know the difference between a kayak and a canoe its time you enrolled on our summer star course. Read on for details of our coaching activities.

The majority of the club coaching of newcomers and improvers will take place at our weekly social gatherings on a Tuesday night at the Hand & Dagger public house on the Lancaster canal. There will be other pool sessions and moving water sessions at other venues according to the requirements of the course syllabi.

Beginners are welcome at the paddle skills pool sessions held once a month.

Paddle skills Pool Sessions; these sessions take place each month (currently on the 2nd Friday) at Fulwood swimming pool, coaches attend these sessions to assist any club members who feel any aspect of their paddling requires a bit of attention. Pre booking is essential for these sessions to prevent overcrowding. Contact Allan Hacking at the Hand & Dagger on a Tuesday night or post a message on the club forum. Normal pool fees apply to these sessions.

1 & 2 star & 3 star WW kayak coaching will take the form of a 10 week course in early summer; this usually allows people to gain new skills ready for use on the club weekend camps.

## **2010 course dates**

**Pool sessions;** Fridays 16th & 23rd April, 14th May & 11th June.

## **Outdoor sessions at Hand & Dagger;**

Tuesdays from 20th April to 15th June with a break at spring bank, (no session 1st June) this gives 8 practical sessions on the canal.

The 3 star course will also have some additional moving water sessions at weekends to be arranged with those on the course.

All day outdoor session; Training/trip Sat 12th June, this will probably be on Coniston in the lake district and will take the form of a trip on the lake with some coaching sessions along the way, 1 & 2 star candidates may do the wet bits of their assessment during this session which will allow us to complete their assessments on the canal on Tuesday 22nd June.

**Assessment Sat 27th June.** 3 star assessment will take place either in the lakes or hopefully at West Tanfield during the first of the summer camps. Any remaining 1 & 2 star assessments may also take place this weekend.

If the assessment dates are a problem for anyone please speak to any of the coaches and we will see what else we can arrange.

The costs for the courses are £30 for junior members and £40 for adult members, plus any additional pool fees and BCU assessment fees.

Please remember we have a selection of boats available to members for use on the courses but you must book them out with Albert, our quartermaster if you want a particular boat.

Contact Allan Hacking at the Hand & Dagger on a Tuesday night or post a message on the club forum, for more details or to book a place on the courses

# *The Ice Maiden Cometh*

*Debra Bookbinder*

If you've been paddling any time at all you are probably familiar with the particular look from work colleagues or family when you talk about going out in winter to get cold and wet and how much fun it is. Well, they have a point. So let's start by being clear that Ribble Canoe Club hasn't lost its marbles and this wasn't a club trip. I mean you would have to be plain barmy to paddle in these conditions.....

In fact, when I first turned up I wasn't even sure I was still in England.



There was deep snow and I had a sense of triumph simply for arriving

At least if there was no paddling there would be a good chance of snow boating



Although you had to look twice to be sure you weren't in Irwell foam



I went to the trouble to ask "Marino wool or wet suit" to be told "Marino wool, wet suit is only any good if you get wet and today, you are NOT GETTING WET"

When we finally got to the river, it wasn't. It was more of a frozen lake. The ice appeared to extend right to the top of the weir, with only a small trickle of water still emerging to cascade down the slope and steps. 'I'm not so sure about this' says Geoff.

Mike went to see if it really was frozen, after chucking a somewhat heavy rock onto ice that didn't even dent, we concluded "yup, it's frozen" .



Did it put us off? Of course not! So on we got. The air was crisp, visibility incredibly clear and the sound of ice cracking as we paddled along was spooky, altogether an incredible experience.



Managed the broken weir with no mishaps but Mike decided to have a play until he got fed up of batting off chunks of ice as they came down onto the playspot. Meanwhile I went to steady myself and ended up with an enormous icicle for my troubles!



Then came the sobering part. The river was completely frozen across and we had to hack our way through. Mike took the lead but as he leaned too far and almost went in we had a shock. He put his paddle down and realised only the tip of the blade was above the surface. "If we go in, we can't stand up, we wouldn't be able to push against the ice". All banter stopped and we realised that although there were folks walking down the bank they would be unable to offer any assistance if we did go in, due to the ice. Using his hands to break through the ice with equal strokes both sides helped keep stability, Mike lead the way in his playboat, I hacked with the blade of my paddle to widen the opening and ensure Mike's paddle didn't slip under the ice and Geoff brought up the rear in his open.

There was a genuine sense of relief as we headed under the arches for what we knew was a clear line



As we came up the get out it seemed so natural to pose for a photograph, it may not have been Everest but it was well more than I had expected from a Saturday afternoon in Bury.

Would I do it again? Certainly not on purpose and not in a hurry.

Am I glad I did it? Absolutely. The air was so crisp, the light was incredible and the landscape beyond pretty.

***Debra Bookbinder***

# ***Surf's Up! (maybe .....)***

## ***Rhosneigr Camp***

### ***30th July – 1st August***

***John Kington***

Have you ever tried surfing in a kayak? Sitting down, not standing up – though you'd get extra marks for style if you did stand up successfully. If you have then you may know about our annual Anglesey Surf Weekend. If not, read on.

One of the few things that you can do in a kayak that beats surfing a glassy green wave on a fast river is surfing down the face of a perfectly formed glassy green wave on the sea – especially if the sun's shining. Every year we have a weekend camp at Rhosneigr on Anglesey. The idea is to pack in as much surfing as possible and have a generally sociable weekend. We don't always get brilliant surf, but there are other attractions – play-boating at the Stanley Embankment wave, seal spotting around some of the offshore islands (using sea kayaks or river boats), beach games, kite flying, beer and barbecues – whatever suits. Is sun guaranteed? Come on now, this is Wales we're talking about – but it is also true that the worst of the wet weather does tend to go straight over and hit Snowdonia instead.

If you've not surfed before this is a good opportunity to learn. As long as you have a

reasonable control of your boat and are prepared to swim a bit you should have fun. Modern river boats with planing hulls work well – most of the club's newer boats fit the bill in this respect. Ultra-short play boats do surf, but can be a bit too slow to catch the waves. Sit-on-tops work well too. I've never seen it tried in a canoe – there's a challenge!

Rhosneigr is on the North West corner of Anglesey. If you've been before you'll know where the campsite is, if not I will be putting details on the club forum – look out for details. The site is fairly basic – no water park or cabaret, but it has hot showers and is not normally crowded. We usually travel to Anglesey on Friday night, but you can always come up on Saturday.

Please let me know if you're coming either direct or via the forum. There is no need to book with the site (unless you have a camper van or caravan or want electric). The site is fairly relaxed about numbers, but if we're going to have a lot more than expected I'd like to let them know.

***John Kington***

# ***Halton Summer Dates***

***Pat Green***

The two dates agreed are Saturday 10 April and Saturday 1st May.

always would you please give any anglers a wide berth.

We should be OK to paddle until the end of March. The water bailiff has asked me to give him a ring prior to going if we intend to paddle on any dates between 15-31st March. So if you are planning on paddling please let me know and I will clear it with him. As

If you have any questions/suggestions etc. about this arrangement or any future developments at Halton please contact me

***Pat Green***

## ***Pool sessions***

The following lists the pool sessions booked at Fulwood Leisure Centre, the contact for the courses and the Supervisor and Committee member on duty.

Date	Session	Contact	Supervisor	Committee
16 April	BCU Star Course	Allan Hacking	Will Body	Rachel Drew
23 April	BCU Star Course	Allan Hacking	David Nelson	Alison Nelson
30 April	Brookbank Demo Night	Paul Binks	Albert Risely	Kath Risely
7 May	Open	N/A	Mark Loftus	John Kington
14 May	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Tony Morgan	Paul Binks
21 May	3* Sea Course	Rick Patterson	Gary Fishwick	Cynthia Conway
28 May	Open	N/A	Mark Buttle	Brian Woodhouse
4 June	Open	N/A	Mark Buttle	Terry Maddock
11 June	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Rick Turner	Albert Risely
18 June	Competition Skills	Rachel Drew	Will Body	Rachel Drew
25 June	Open	N/A	Mark Dillon	John Kington

**Please note prices for pool sessions:** All the above sessions £4.

Please book in advance for the Paddle Skills and 3\* Sea Course Sessions by phoning the named contact.



# ***Editors Bit***

As always we would like to thank those who have contributed articles for this edition. We reckon Richard Collins must be fresh back from a creative writing course to have produced such an interesting article from what was basically a bit of a paddle on Windermere.

Wearing the big black hat was a nice JRR Tolkien Touch adding further drama to the pictures. The new name of Tourers, Explorers, and Adventurers seems to have changed them from the "Flat Earth Group" to the "Middle Earth Group." Well done Richard.

T.E.A Trips. If you are interest in coming along, the next outing is 11<sup>th</sup> April. Other dates will be arranged (and put on the forum) so as not to clash with the current 3\* Sea Kayaking Course. Contact Richard for further information.

What can you say about the article from "The Ice Maiden" Debra? Quick check to make sure it is spelt correctly; don't want a verbal hand bagging.

Paddlers with such bravery are usually described as having "Ice in Their Veins". Debra must have Anti Freeze in hers. The pictures supplied were incredible. Thanks Debra.

There is no Chairman's Chat in this edition Terry felt that he had covered this edition's information in his AGM Report. He then said that he couldn't think of anything else to say! This is probably an event that happens as often as a Preston Guild. For those who were not at the AGM his notes are on page 14 of this newsletter (RCC AGM Chairman's Report).

Another change is that the Newsletter Calendar is now being designed and collated by Will Body.

## **Dates and Deadlines**

The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger.

The next newsletter will be published on 19<sup>th</sup> May. We would appreciate all submissions by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, spring will bring an improvement in the weather so that mere mortals/softies can get out paddling again and find something to write about. Articles don't necessarily need to be factual, just interesting to read. (Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story).

Please send your submissions by email, to [newsletter@ribblecanooclub.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@ribblecanooclub.co.uk). When we receive them we will send you an email acknowledgment. If you don't receive one you will know it hasn't been received.

Please be aware that some of the information in this newsletter is removed before being published on the web site. This is because the web site can be viewed by anyone with web site access, and they may use the information in ways that may be contrary to our interests or wishes. The complete version is only available by email to paid up members.

## **Disclaimer**

Please note that the opinions expressed in this and every other Ribble CC newsletter are those of the author of the article. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newsletter editor or the committee, or the policies of Ribble Canoe Club

***Pat & Norman Green***  
[newsletter@ribblecanooclub.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@ribblecanooclub.co.uk)

# **Secretaries Stuff**

**Paul Binks**

At the AGM a few people mentioned to Terry and others that they'd like to know what's going on with the committee and wondered if the Committee Meeting Minutes could be published in the news letter or on line. To be honest I think reading the full minutes would challenge even the worst insomniacs to stay awake! Terry in his 'Chairman's Chat' does often touch on things discussed at the Committee but I've volunteered to do a quick tabloid style summary of what we talk about for 2 and a half hours once every two months. If we have 'Chairman's Chat' may be we should have 'Secretaries Sleaze' was one of the suggestions.

Well I've dug deep but there's nothing muckier discussed than the state of the path from the locker to the canal.

This month at the Committee meeting we started to discuss the club trips for the year: West Tanfield June, Rhosneigr July and the now annual Bala camp (as it happened last year and we're doing it again then that makes it annual doesn't it?) for August. All the dates are in the news letter. One of the central themes of the Committee discussions is how can we help make the club a vibrant and social thing rather than a collection of individuals or small groups who happen to sometimes paddle together. To have a range of activities at the summer camps is one way, another is to have a full and well publicized calendar with regular trips on it.

If you look at the forum at all or hear people at the H&D you can't have avoided picking up some vibes about the 'state' of the calendar. Well, thanks to Richard Collins the Adventurers and miscreants, I think that's what they call themselves, will be having regular 'flat' trips that will appear on the calendar. Will Body from the Committee has agreed to act as Chief Calendar Clerk and make sure the calendar on the forum and the newsletter is up to date.

Competition was also discussed and Rachel Desmond Drew, Competition Secretary, is going to try and improve the profile of competition on the forum but also at a fun competition pool night.

Another way of making the club more of a club is to entice new people in and show them what a splendid lot we are.

Thanks to the efforts of the Coaches Forum the summer star courses will run again and we already have quite a lot of interest from beginners, both for the course and the March beginner's trip on Windermere.

Quite a long discussion took place as to how to celebrate the zenith point of the beginner's introduction to the club, the awards ceremony. I am happy to announce that yes each successful star course passé will be awarded with a certificate and a pie at no expense to themselves and great expense to the club. The Committee did pass a firm resolution though that if they want to bring a guest the guest have to pay for their own pies; we're not a charity after all. We have not yet discussed the type or size of pies; we're saving that until next time.

This time of year we always set the pool sessions for the 'summer term'. We are pleased to announce that our good friends from Brookbank will be bringing a shed load, or rather van load, of boats on 30th April to the pool for people to try out.

Albert our quartermaster has done a stock take and has confirmed we still have boats. He's also arranged the annual safety inspections and equipment tests. The boat insurance is also being paid.

That's all the juicy and interesting bits I think. Oh yes, I was sat between two gorgeous women who became more gorgeous when they allowed me to help myself to their chips.

# ***Ribble Canoe Club AGM***

## ***year ending 31st December 2009***

Thursday 25th February 2010 at The Hand & Dagger, Salwick at 7:30 for 8:00pm  
Minutes

### **Welcome**

Apologies	Pat Green, Norman Green, Mark Green, Ed Lefley, Dels, Mags Brayfield, Andy Biggs
Number present	48

### **Minutes for 2008**

Proposed	Seconded	Passed?
Martin Stockdale	Debra Bookbinder	yes

Secretary's report – Paul Binks

Membership has dropped slightly this year. There has also been a decrease in the number of junior paddlers within the Club but this is against an increase for the last two years. The figures as of December 2009 are shown below, together with the breakdown of member interests:

	2008/09	2009/10
Affiliated groups	5	2
Adult	201	186
Junior	94	53
Life members	8	8
Total	308	249

Activity	Number Interested	
	2008/09	2009/10
Slalom	46	28
WW touring	121	124
Surf	62	77
W/W Race	15	7
Polo	36	27
General Recreation	205	238
Sea	81	98
Freestyle	19	19

There have been approximately 60 enquiries for new membership received via the website during 2009 as well as people contacting myself and Terry by phone or just turning up at the pool or Hand & Dagger. We look forwards to entering the warmer weather with well attended beginners' trips to introduce new paddlers to paddling and the club.

During 2009 there were no substantial communications other than annual affiliation to the BCU.

In 2009 there were General Committee Meetings in January, March, May, July, September and November, as well as the AGM in February. There was at least 9 members at each meeting, an average of 10, with the highest attendance of 12 for the March meeting.

Alternating with the General Committee there were Coaching Forum Meetings. The numbers attending these meetings were more variable. We'd like to encourage existing coaches and those interested in coaching to come along.

Once again the summer training courses were healthily attended with two 1\2star groups and a large 3 star moving water group.

### **Treasurer's report 2009** - Kath Risely, presented by Albert Risely

A copy of the Accounts including the Property Schedule has been circulated to members.

From these you will see that income from Membership fees and courses is in line with previous years. This year's courses saw many members, both new and old, taking part in the annual 'Star Awards' which in 2009 included a 3 Star course for the first time in several years. Courses generate a good part of the Club's income and once again, thanks go to our volunteer coaches for the time they have spent in running these.

We received a grant of £608 from the Canoe England Canoe Foundation towards the construction of the new path from the container at the rear of the Hand & Dagger down to the canal. The total cost to date is £968 with the likelihood that more will need to be spent in the spring in an attempt to improve the drainage and stop it once more becoming the quagmire that we saw last summer. However, the benefits of the path certainly outweigh the costs to the Club. As well as the financial expense we have had a couple of working days when volunteers carried out the construction of both path and handrail and thanks must go to them also.

There has again been very modest support for polo and slalom sessions but it is proposed to persevere with these sessions and promote them more actively through the Newsletter and the Forum in the coming year. The paddle skills and open pool sessions have generally been well attended with just occasional ones being under subscribed, several during the bad weather at the end of the year.

2009 has seen the club invest heavily in training. We have subsidised the costs of two members to achieve their level 1 coaching qualification and two to achieve level 3 status. Six members have passed their Foundation Safety & Rescue Test thereby enabling them to supervise at the Friday night pool sessions and also work towards their coaching awards. Twelve coaches or trip leaders have attended White Water Safety and Rescue courses, which have been partially subsidised by the club. Members and coaches have also attended a Child Protection Course and 12 members attended a First Aid Course.

The Sundry Expenditure figure includes a donation of £250, which equates to approximately £1 per member, to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund and also a donation of £50 to the Langdale & Ambleside Mountain Rescue team. We all paddle, and most of us walk or cycle and we derive much enjoyment from visiting the Lake District. As such it seemed only fair to make a contribution during the difficult times which followed the flooding at the end of last year. I think anyone who

visited the area shortly afterwards could not fail to be moved by the devastation to places that we know so well.

The bank balance has remained constant at just under £9000. This figure includes the sum of £1082 which was previously known as the Halton Fund. This money was collected from various sources in the 1980's when slalom events were held at Halton and was written back into the accounts in 2005 when the passage of time made it unlikely that these funds would be called upon. This situation may now have changed and Terry will shortly go into more detail about developments.

Overall the clubs position is looking healthy and we are hoping to continue in the same vein for this coming year.

### **Treasurers' report**

Proposed	Seconded	Passed?
John Kington	Allan Hacking	Yes

### **Proposal of Auditor: The Auditor, Turner & Brown**

Proposed	Seconded	Passed?
Rick Patterson	Janet Robinson	Yes

### **Competition Secretary's report** – presented by Rachel Desmond-Drew

This is the competition report for 2009.

I took over the role of competition secretary in May 2009 from Allan Hacking and I would like to thank him for his hard work and enthusiasm that he brought to the role in promoting competition within Ribble Canoe Club.

This year has been another quiet year on the competition front however, we have had some fantastic results in the disciplines which Ribble paddlers take part in.

#### **Slalom:**

Slalom has been active again this year with Ribble Canoe Club being represented by Tim Merrick in Prem, Alex Jones & Mick Huddleston in Div 1, Roy Garriock & Ian Burt in Div 2/3, and Jonathan and Jacquelyn Shaw.

Jonathan is currently paddling C1 and C2 in prem and is currently in position 112 in ICF world rankings for C1 Mens. Jacquelyn is Bib 1 in the C1 category and in position 10 in the world rankings for C1 Women's in 2009.

Both Jonathan and Jacquelyn represented GB seniors in summer 2009 taking part in World Series races across Europe with Jacquelyn coming 3rd in C1 in the German Open and Jonathan coming 2nd in the Teen Cup in the Czech Republic.

Alexandra Elkington has also represented Ribble Canoe Club in Slalom this year.

She took 2nd place at Marple Slalom, 1st at Slenningford Watermill which lead to her promotion into Div 3. Alex then took 2nd place in her first Div 3 race at Sowerby Bridge. She finished the year 52nd out of 133 in a year hampered by an injury from open boating. I wish her all the best for a speedy recovery and hope to see her out on the water again soon.

### **Freestyle:**

Ben and Dom Brayfield took part at the 2009 British Freestyle Championships at Holme Pierrepont in September, competing in the K1 Mens section with Ben making it through to the semi finals.

Mags Brayfield and Will Body also took part in the Novice section of the Freestyle Championships which comprised of a freestyle event on the Tardis wave at HPP, a slalom event and boater-x. Will finished 4th overall with Mags in 12th position.

### **Seaquest 2009:**

Ribble had a big turn out at Seaquest and Seatour the year. Mick Huddleston arrived back in 4th place, Mags Brayfield came in as 1st lady, Andy Biggs, Albert Risely, Richard Collins, Roy Booth, Gary and Adam Fishwick, Jack Powell, Paul and Sam Binks also took part. Roy Garriock took part in the Seatour event coming in 5th place with Ben and Bruce Carter not far behind.

### **Finally – Dumbongo:**

This club run competition takes place twice a year in at Fulwood pool. This year the returning champions, the Bongo Boys retained their trophy until December where it was won by new challengers – the Middle Aged Fogies.

### **Hon. Chairman's report – Terry Maddock Chairman's Report – 25 February 2010**

A year ago we had just said goodbye to our landlords here at the Hand and Dagger. Nothing much changes does it? Except that today our regrets at losing Allan & Lucy are especially deep because they have been such good friends to us. They're only moving as far as The Dunes in Blackpool, so we hope that Connor will be able to continue paddling with us. Michael and Karen have just taken over (yesterday) and we hope to have a long and happy relationship with them.

Our new access path down to the canal was constructed in the first half of the year by some of our keenest, fittest and best looking members. It has been a great success but during the very wet summer and winter has become a quagmire in places. When (if) the drier weather arrives we will sort the problem by improving the drainage.

The "summer" courses went well using the BCU Star Awards rather than the Paddlepower system used the previous year. We aim to improve the running of the courses this coming summer, particularly easing the burden on our coaches. Many thanks to Allan Hacking for organising the courses over the past few years and the coming year. Joanne Hacking presented the awards with a talk and DVD show of her adventures canoeing in Uganda on big and scary water.

Early in the year Pat and Norman Green took over from Martin Stockdale the editorship and publishing of our magazine. I think we can say that the previous high standard has been maintained.

The Easter Scottish Week was again held at Ardhu and was attended by about 30 members. All the traditional trips and some new ones were paddled. Despite its resounding success over many years, next Easter's trip seems to be languishing due to lack of interested members.

Our summer camps went well despite a lot of weather. At West Tanfield we had about 40 members, 4 dogs and Holly. The river was low resulting in the cancellation of the Ure trip. However a lot of fun was had on the rapids and pool within the site and Allan was able to complete several 3 Star assessments. About 20 members were at Rhosneigr, some paddling to the "Inland Sea" and back whilst others found good surf at Aberffraw. In summer Ed Lefley organised an Ardeche Camp where 17 members enjoyed a fortnights paddling in hot weather and warm water. Several did a two-day trip with a bivvy camp in between. The fortnight was a resounding success thanks to Ed's hard work and efficient organisation. This was the club's first trip abroad for several years and there is a good deal of interest in doing another. The Ullswater Camp was held this year at Bala, North Wales as opposed to Coniston in the previous two years. Despite the dismal weather, about a dozen members turned up and paddled Llyn Tegid (Lake Bala) or the river Tryweryn. On Sunday seven did the Lower Tryweryn trip. The Tyne Tour was popular with Ribble this year and, for the first time we had canoes as well as kayaks on the river.

The year ended with two unusual happenings. The weather was one, giving us prolonged cold snaps and snow. Ice and low water alternated with thaws giving short periods of high water. The other happening happened at Halton. Pat and Norman Green had already extended our access from 3 months to just over 5. Now they have been building bridges (metaphorically) with the new owners of the right bank, Lancaster Cohousing. Opportunities have arisen for possible provision of toilets and changing facilities plus, maybe, access steps, particularly useful for launching open canoes. With access issues under consideration by Parliament, who knows where all this may lead. Pat has set up a steering committee of members of northwest canoe clubs and the BCU. Norman is Ribble's representative on that committee as Pat is there as Local River Advisor for the BCU.

Over twenty years ago, a consortium of northwest canoe clubs ran very successful slaloms at Halton. Norman has compiled a DVD from film made at the time and this is available to borrow from our library. The consortium for development and running of slaloms at Halton held money collected by way of various fees and charges from slalom entrants. Unfortunately access to various essential facilities was lost in the late 1980's and no future for slalom there was foreseeable. The consortium disbanded and cash assets of about £1,083 were passed to Ribble CC. Our accounts have always demonstrated the club's attitude to the origins and status of this money. It was at times held in a separate account and when otherwise, the notes to our annual accounts have stated that £1,083 of the club's cash at bank included the "Halton Fund". At a Special Committee Meeting on 9 February this year the Committee formally acknowledged the existence of the "Halton Fund" and agreed that it should be handed over in parts or as a whole when requested by the Halton Steering Committee subject to the satisfaction of the Ribble CC General Committee regarding the nature of the expense or the status of the receiving body.

Lastly, Pat has received from the BCU their Access Volunteer of the Year Award, as announced in February's edition of Canoe Focus. I think we can all agree that this was very well deserved and in addition to thanking Pat for all her hard work and negotiating skill, I must thank the person who nominated her for the award. I wish I'd thought of it.

Terry Maddock  
Chairman, Ribble Canoe Club

## Election of Officers

The following Committee Members stood down at the AGM:

General Committee Junior Peter Nelson

Representative

General Committee

Steve Swarbrick

Terry Maddock asked the meeting for a vote of thanks for all the work Steve had put in over the years in his quiet and helpful ways, particularly with respect to his sea trips on the Easter Scottish Holidays and to his organisation of New Year and other camps.

**The following Committee Members resigned during the year:**

None

The following committee member standing for election, was proposed and seconded, and elected by a show of hands:

Role	Name	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Competition Secretary	Rachel Desmond-Drew	Kath Risely	Lesley Hacking

The following committee member, due to retire by rotation and standing for re-election, was proposed and seconded, and elected by a show of hands:

Role	Name	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Chairman	Terry Maddock	Steve Wilkinson	Geoff Clarke

The following new committee member standing for election was proposed and seconded, and elected by a show of hands:

Role	Name	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
General Committee	Will Body	Paul Wicks	David Nelson
General Committee	Andy Biggs	Paul Wicks	David Nelson
General Committee	Cynthia Conway	Paul Wicks	David Nelson

**Any other business.**

Q:

No member present raised any query or point of interest.



## **Presentation of Club Trophies**

The trophies were presented by Peter Roscoe a long paddling and quietly formidable gentleman well known throughout of the world of sea kayaking.

### **1. Driftwood**

The Driftwood trophy is awarded to the club member whose paddling ability has improved the most during the last year.

#### Nominations:

Roy Booth  
Rachel Desmond-Drew - awarded  
Tom Clarke  
Kath Risely  
Rick Turner  
Sam Binks  
Paul Binks

### **2. Competition**

The Competition trophy is awarded to the person seen to have achieved (or improved) most in Competition during the year.

#### Nominations:

Alex Elkington  
Jacqueline Shaw - awarded  
Jonathon Shaw  
Will body  
Mick Huddleston  
Mags Brayfield

### **3. Youth Challenge**

The Youth Challenge trophy is awarded to the club member under the age of 18 who has achieved the most in the past year, be it in improved paddling ability or competition.

#### Nominations:

Adam Fishwick - awarded  
Sam Binks  
Tom Clarke  
Tom Fuller  
Connor Murdock  
Francis Twizzel

### **4. Author of the Year**

The Author of the Year trophy is awarded to the writer of the best newsletter article(s) in the last year.

#### Nominations:

John Kington  
Paul & Sam Binks - Awarded  
Adam Fielder  
Mark Dillon

### **5. Philip Singleton Trophy**

The Philip Singleton Memorial trophy is awarded for significant contributions to the club

Nominations: Not awarded this year

***Paul Binks, Secretary***

# ***Ribble CC Library***

To borrow a book or video, contact Cynthia Conway (cfconway@tiscali.co.uk) or see her at the Hand & Dagger. Donations of books or videos are always welcome.

## **Technique:**

BCU Handbook  
The Practical Guide to Kayaking  
Canoeing & Kayaking  
William Nealy's "Kayak"  
Bombproof Roll and Beyond!  
Eskimo Rolling for Survival  
White Water Safety & Rescue  
Weir Wisdom Rapids  
Canoe & Kayak Games  
The Playboater's Handbook  
Complete Book of Sea Kayaking  
Sea Kayak Navigation  
Path of the Paddle  
Canoeing  
Open Canoe Technique  
Rowing it Alone  
The Handbook of Survival at Sea  
BCU Coaching Handbook  
Sea Safety: The Complete Guide  
White Water Kayaking  
The Art of Freestyle

## **Guidebooks:**

English White Water  
Scottish White Water  
White Water Lake District  
An Atlas of the English Lakes  
Canal Companion: Cheshire Ring  
Anglesey Sea Paddling  
Welsh Sea Kayaking  
Touring 100 Paddles in England  
Scottish Sea Kayak Trail

## **General:**

The Rough Guide to Weather  
The Liquid Locomotive  
Many Rivers to Run  
Norwegian rivers  
Canoe Focus  
Working out of Doors with Young People

## **Expeditions:**

Travels with a Kayak  
*Whit Descher*  
On Celtic Tides  
*Chris Duff*  
Blazing Paddles  
*Brian Wilson*  
Dancing with Waves  
*Brian Wilson*  
Paddling to Jerusalem  
*David Aaronovitch*  
The Last River  
*Todd Balf*  
Paddle to the Arctic  
*Don Starkey*  
Canoeing across Canada  
*Gary & Joanie McGuffin*  
The Canoe Boys  
*Sir Alastair Dunnett*  
Odyssey among the Inuit  
*Jonathan Waterman*  
Barbed Wire & Babushkas  
*Paul Grogan*

## **Videos:**

Liffey Descent  
Deliverance (18)  
Extreme Sports Canoeing  
A Taste of White Water  
Wicked Water 2  
Drill Time  
Destination Nowhere

Path of the Paddle: Whitewater

## **DVDs:**

Tony Morgan - Grand Canyon  
LVM Lunch Video Magazine  
Ribble Newsletters (CD)  
The Martin Years RCC Newsletters 2002-2009  
Without a Paddle (13)  
Whitewater Kayaking  
The Cockleshell Heroes (U)  
Mags Brayfield in Nepal  
Tatshenshini/Alsek 2007  
Mountain River Movie  
*By Michael Allender*  
Jackson Kayak Promo  
It's Different Every Time  
Halton Rapids  
*Norman Green*  
Fort William 2005/06 Trip  
My Tartan Adventure (VCD)  
Ribble Canoe Club, Scotland 2007  
Thistle Float Your Boat  
RCC, Scotland 2007 & 2008  
*Norman Green*  
Locks and Quays  
Featuring Ribble Canoe Club  
The Politics Show  
Featuring Ribble Canoe Club  
Open Canoeing  
*Reg Blomfield*  
EJ's Rolling and Bracing  
This is the Sea - 1<sup>st</sup> ever action sea kayak video  
*Janet Robinson*  
The Call of the River - 100 years of Whitewater Adventure (USA)  
Sea Kayak with Gordon Brown  
Instructional Journey along Skye Coast



# CALENDAR

NOTE: Last minute trips are often arranged on the forum on the website ([www.ribblecanoeclub.co.uk](http://www.ribblecanoeclub.co.uk)), at the Hand & Dagger on Tuesdays or at Fulwood on Friday (RCC pool nights) . If you have any dates for the calendar please contact **Terry Maddock**

## March

**19**  
**Pool Session - Sea/Touring Safety & Rescue Course – Fulwood Leisure Centre - Allan Hacking**

**20**  
**Beginners trip - see Forum - Paul Binks – Waterhead - Windermere**

20-21  
Slalom Div 2 & 3 Sowerby Bridge - Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire

**26**  
*Pool session - Open to all members - Fulwood Leisure Centre*

## April

**17 or 18**  
**Beginners trip - Venue to be arranged**

**18**  
**3 Star Sea Kayak - come and try it - TBC - likely to be Fleetwood**

17  
Ravenglass Seaquest - Ravenglass, Cumbria

17-18  
Slalom Div 3 & 4 Oughtibridge, Yorkshire - Oughtibridge, Yorkshire

24-25  
Slalom Div 2 & 3 Matlock

## May

**Sat 1 or sun 2**  
**Development Trip - see Forum - Venue to be arranged**

1-2  
Slalom Div 2 & 3 Bala Mill, Wales

Sun 9  
3 Star Sea Kayak - first journey - Fleetwood - full details to follow

**15 or 16**  
**Beginners trip - see Forum - Venue to be arranged**

15-16  
Slalom Div 3 & 4 Wagon Lane, W Yorkshire

**16**  
**3 Star Sea Kayak - Second journey - Arnside**

22-23  
Slalom Div 3 & 4 Rhug

## June

**5 or 6**  
**Development Trip - see Forum - Sat or Sun - Venue to be arranged**

5-6  
Slalom Div 3 & 4 Stone, Staffordshire

**6**  
**3 star Sea Kayak - Possible Assessment for those ready - TBC**

**13**  
**3 star Sea Kayak – Possible Assessment for those ready - TBC**

**19 or 20**  
**Beginners trip - see Forum - Sat or Sun - Venue to be arranged**

25-27  
*West Tanfield Camp, West Tanfield, Yorkshire.*

## July

**30-1**  
*Rhosneigr Surf/Sea camp – Rhosneigr, Anglesey.*

## August

**20-22**  
**Summer camp – Venue TBA**

## Sept

11  
Seaquest & Seatour – Wyre Estuary, Fleetwood

## Oct

**23-24**  
**Tay descent – Perth**  
*See forum for details*

This data is extracted from the Google calendar on the RCC website. Google Calendar amendments may be made after this one has been printed. Trips may be changed or cancelled at short notice. Always get in touch with the trip organiser the day before to check! If you don't, and you have a wasted trip, don't blame us.