

TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



Sponsored By

BAE SYSTEMS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

Driven south by the weather



12-16 September 2005

Paddlers: Dave Hull, Paul Wicks, Allan Hacking.

The route was planned, and the kit was packed, the plan was for a 5 day sea kayak trip going out from Mallaig, exploring Loch Nevis and the Knoydart peninsula with a day's walking on the latter to give the arms a rest.

The met office however had other ideas, 25 mph winds and heavy rain for 2 days of the trip had us reconsidering (wimping out) our plans, plan B was Loch Lomond. It was billed as the largest area of freshwater in the UK, 25 miles long and 5 miles wide at it's widest point, but it wasn't the sea.

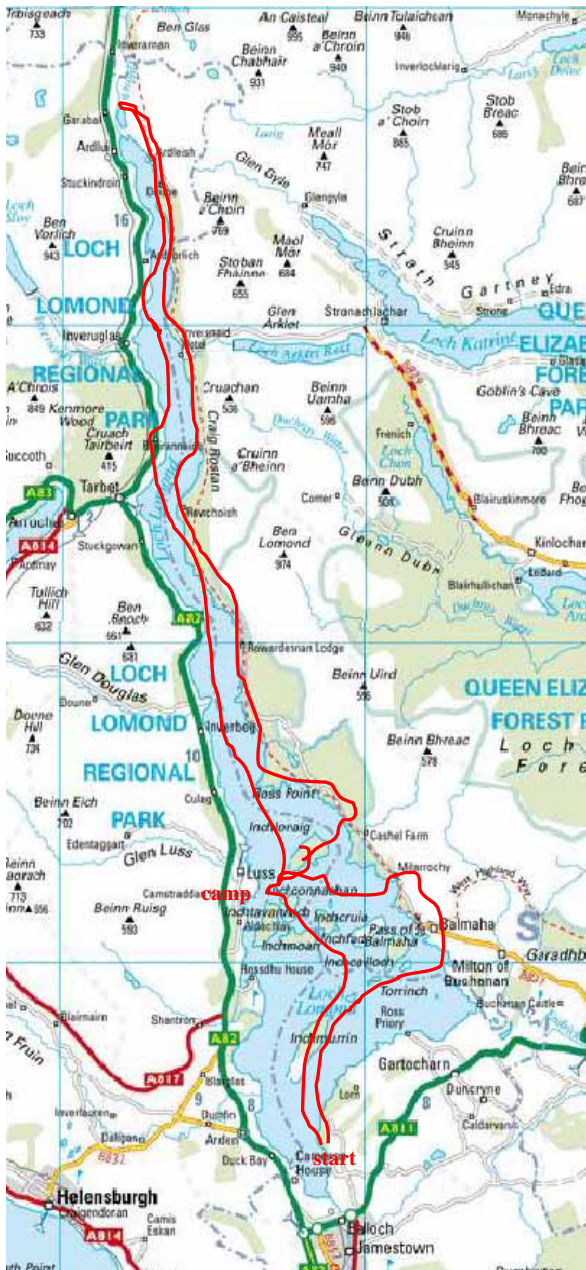
Plan C, what about Anglesey, It sounded good until a little www surfing revealed comments like 'strong tidal races' 'large overfalls' and 'not for the beginner'. That

settled it, the 3 of us on the trip were all new to extended trips of this nature and with little experience of sea paddling to boot, Loch Lomond was the chosen destination.

Day 1

We arrived at Balloch at the south end of the Loch mid afternoon and proceeded to the public slipway and National Park ranger station to enquire about car parking and launch arrangements. 'You can leave the car where it is, no problem' said the ranger 'How much will that cost' we enquired, 'Its free' was the reply. Our surprise must have been noticeable as she then went on to explain that the car park was locked at night and it had CCTV. Ok, that was one happy driver - me, I might add. 'Could we use the slipway to launch?' was the next question, 'Yes of course' was the reply and guess what, that was free as well.

BAE SYSTEMS



We then had a very useful conversation which revealed that as kayakers we could go anywhere on the Loch and camp anywhere we wanted, including the islands, and light fires, provided we follow all the normal wild camp procedures. We all subscribe to the 'leave only footprints, take only photographs' principle, so had no problems with this. She did however suggest that we avoid one particular island, due to the nudist camp on it, 'it's not a pretty sight, they are all over 50' she added, enough said.

Packing the boats was a learning curve, akin to falling off a cliff. I have heard tales of people taking cases of beer and other

essentials on these type of trips, I would love to see what luxuries they leave behind, as I could only manage one bottle of whisky and even that was at the expense of some food.

Time to paddle at last, a gentle start to locate an island campsite was the order of the day, so after about 7 miles in the late afternoon sun we decided the island of Inchmoan was to be our home for the night, this had been another recommendation of our helpful ranger.



At the western end of the island where it narrowed we found landing spots on both sides of the island with a perfect camp spot in the middle and a glorious 300yd arcing beach on the southern side, with a gentle breeze it was even midge free, in Scotland! Judging by the orange glows on islands all around as darkness fell, we weren't the only people out there.



Day 2

This was the day the met office said would be wet and windy, and they were spot on. Although we were well south of the 25mph

winds, it was still strong enough to be entertaining on the more exposed sections of the Loch as we made our way North. A 20-mile paddle to Ardlui at the top of the Loch was our ideal destination for the evening, a distance none of us had paddled in one day before. During the paddle someone commented 'looks like it's fining up' - this was immediately followed by a rain shower. A little while later he was again heard to utter the words 'looks like its fining up' - the rain duly arrived as if commanded. This led to negative logic being applied to the weather for the rest of the trip.

With the wind at our back and several stops to explore small islands and their castle ruins, 6 hours or so later we landed at the campsite at Ardlui - or should I say the caravan park. The campsite was right across the park, up the hill, past the pub, across the road and into a separate compound. The compound had a code lock on the gate so at least was secure, but what a trek with loaded boats!

Several methods of transport were discussed and tried, the eventual preferred option being a 4 metre sling under the cockpit area of the boat with one person either side taking the weight and the 3rd person at the rear balancing and guiding the boat as we went. I think it's fair to say we provided the cabaret entertainment that afternoon.

With tents pitched and food devoured, a shower and a visit to the pub was deemed the only respectable entertainment for the evening. Fortunately for us the locals were in the pub for the Rangers vs Porto European football match that night, I say fortunately because as one of our rounds of drinks arrived, Rangers scored the decisive goal of the match. Due to the celebrations that followed, we went home with damaged hearing and the barmaid had a mental block, forgetting to collect any money for the drinks. Only one thing for it then, to get the money over the bar and ease the guilty conscience, we would simply have another round of drinks.

Day 3

The arms had a rest today as we went for a walk up the local munro 'Ben Vorlich.' It should have been a 9 mile walk but as we left the road to start up the ridge, a quick check with the compass to ensure we were going the right way was called for. Unfortunately this revealed that each of us had managed to leave our compasses in the boats. As it was a misty day it was only sensible to retrieve them, so this we did adding a mile or so to the total.



Half way up as the weather worsened I realised that I had also left my survival bag in the boat, and guess what, so had everyone else. There's a moral in there somewhere but nobody felt like going back after 1500 ft of climbing. After completing the walk and the obligatory shower we decided a bar meal was just reward for our efforts, so it was back to the pub. Alas no football tonight, shame.

Day 4

As we emerged from the tents this morning the negative logic kicked in again. 'Weather looks a bit rough' said one, 'Yeh the wind's getting up,' said another, 'look at those clouds,' said another. It was in fact a glorious day but we were taking no chances.

We broke camp and set off on the return journey with a gentle breeze at our backs, I spent 15 minutes trying to get a camera shy heron to pose for a picture; each time I went for the camera it decided it was time to move on, so I gave up. We had spotted 'Rob Roy's cave' on the map so decided to investigate on

the way home. We landed on the shore about 100yds away from where it was located and set off to find it.

Dave almost removed the nail on his big toe when he slipped off a rock or something. It looked rather painful but, despite the blood and electricians tape to hold the nail in place, he put on a brave face. When we found the cave, and almost stumbled upon a foreign film crew recording what looked like a history program in the process, we decided Rob Roy must have been a very short chap to hide out in such a place. It barely warranted the title of a cave, it was more a pile of rocks with gaps between them. We returned to the boats and enjoyed a somewhat leisurely paddle down the Loch past waterfalls, hotels and some very expensive looking boats, how the other half live!



Camp for the night was back on Inchmoan but not before a stop on Inchconnachan to collect firewood and check out the wildlife. We had been told of a population of about 40 wallabies that lived on this island, and sure enough within 200yds of the shore we spotted 3 of them, as we approached they hopped away and the sight and sound of them bounding through the woods was quite amazing.



The boats took on a camouflage appearance as we paddled onwards loaded with firewood on the decks, but it was for a good cause and we didn't have far to go.



Day 5

The glorious sunset and moonlit night sat by the fire meant that this was going to be a lazy morning, but still we were under way by about 10.30. This however was too late to spot the otters that were reportedly to be found in the nature reserve around Balmaha. We were told that early morning or evening was the best time to see them, we missed out on this occasion but still enjoyed the paddle back to Balloch in glorious sunshine and with the Loch pretty much to ourselves.

As we arrived back at the slipway the rangers greeted us, and after packing away the gear we made use of the shower facilities in the ranger station before rejoining the human race.

Allan Hacking

AGM 2005

Notice is hereby given that the Ribble Canoe Club AGM will be held on Thursday 16th February 2006 at 7:30 for 8:00pm at Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club.

This meeting is open to every Club member and is your opportunity to raise any issues you may have about the Club, its organisation and the way you want the Club to be run in future. Items of discussion for inclusion on the Agenda and proposals for new committee members are therefore invited and should be notified in writing to the Hon. Secretary, Martin Stockdale no later than 31st December 2005.

Current Committee members are:

Chairman	Terry Maddock *
Secretary	Martin Stockdale
Treasurer	John Kington
Competition Secretary	Vacant
Quartermaster	Steve Swarbrick
General Committee	Tom Byrne
	Grahame Coles *
	Jacky Draper *
	Dave Ellison
	Peter Jones
	Tom Kington
	Tim Langridge
	Mark Loftus *
	Clive Robinson *
	Brian Woodhouse (Membership)

Those marked * are due to retire by rotation (every 2 years) and being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

Proposals for the role of Competition Secretary, as well as any other proposals for committee members are most welcome and should be notified to Martin Stockdale as described above. Agreement will then be sought at the AGM.

The full Agenda for the AGM will be posted in the January edition of the newsletter.

Martin Stockdale

Christmas Greetings

There's a little gap down here - just big enough for me, on behalf of the Committee, to wish all club members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

River Conwy

Paddlers: Tom K, John K and Barry Aldridge

Location: River Conwy

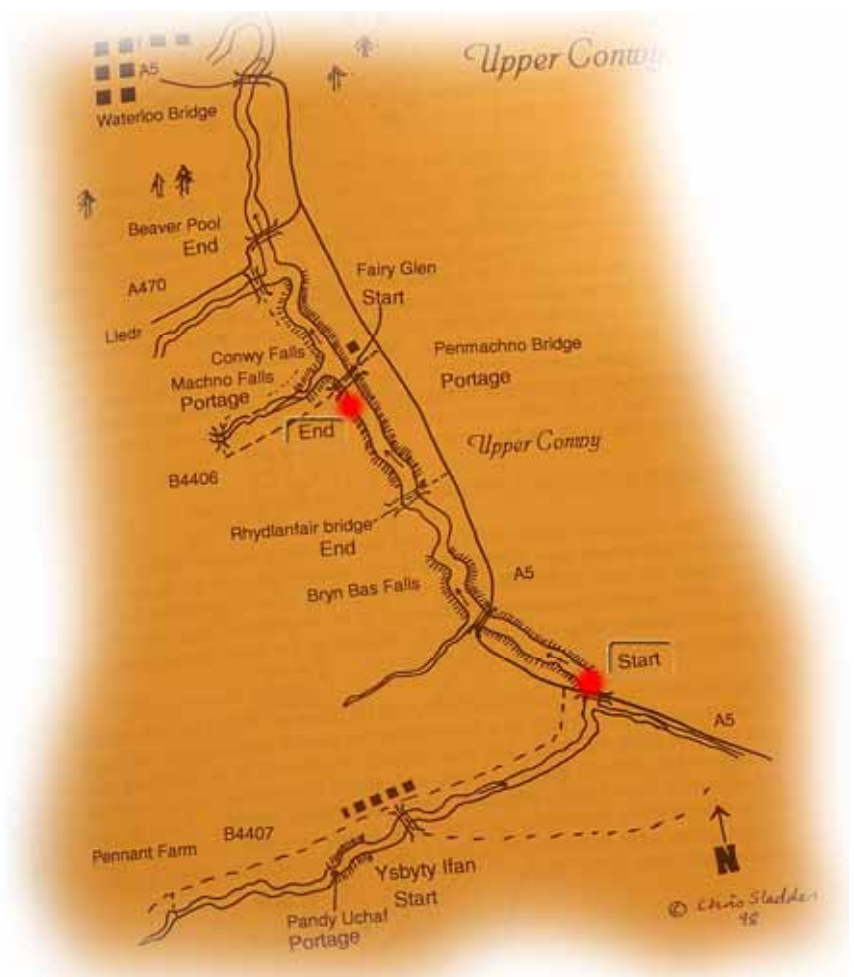
Date: Saturday 1st October

Having only paddled artificial courses all summer (Washburn, Teesside and the Tryweryn) I felt I really needed to paddle a proper river. So, right on cue on Friday night, Barry Aldridge (some of you will know him from the Scotland Easter trips) in Runcorn rang us up and asked if we would like to paddle somewhere in Wales on Saturday. Obviously my dad and I leaped at the opportunity. So come 7:30 Saturday morning we were setting off for Runcorn. The plan was to go to Barry's, put our boats on his car and go and meet Matt and Clive (also Scotland regulars) at the Farm Café on the way to Bala.

As we sat in the café with our mugs of tea and chocolate, we waited patiently for Matt and Clive. After three quarters of an hour waiting we felt they were not going to show. So we decided on what to paddle. The three main choices were the Conwy, the Llugwy and the Ogwen, all of these are situated down the A5 going towards Conwy from the Corwen direction.

So we headed towards the first river (Conwy), when we reached it Barry said the level was good (3 on the gauge) so we decided to paddle the Conwy.

As we got changed Barry took the car to the bottom and hitched back up again.



Finally we hit the water, the first stretch up to Rydlanfair Bridge (a small pack horse bridge) was fairly easy, it involved mostly grade three and a few grade four rapids, we got down to the bridge OK and carried on.

The next section down to the get out is slightly more tricky, as well as grade three and some grade four rapids, there are two grade five drops. As we entered this section we came across a few grade three/four rapids. Suddenly Barry told us we were approaching the grade five drop and needed to get out on the left (just a quick note, it is always best to think left on this river, portages are on the left and most of the rapids and drops are run on the left).

As we climbed out of our boats my dad and Barry made it quite clear they were going to portage this rapid. I however decided to give it a chance. I clambered over the rocks to go and inspect the drop. At this point I remembered the thirty second rule (if you look at a drop for more than thirty seconds and haven't reached a decision, chances are that you aren't going to run the drop). As I was stood trying to find a line for about three minutes I knew that I wasn't going to run this drop, to put it simply there was no safe line down the drop. So I went to drag my boat around the drop and we continued to paddle down the river.

Another half mile down stream and we came across the other grade five, again I went to inspect this and found no possible line which I was happy with, so again we portaged. The portage however is fun as it involved a twelve foot seal launch to get back in again.

After this the only point of real interest is a grade four rapid (see picture) which involves running the drop from centre to left, this drop caused yet another bang to my head, all part of the fun though.

Now all there was to do was to make sure we got out at the right place (instinct for Barry as he has paddled this river many times), the importance being that if you overrun you will most certainly get a pounding due to a number of Transit sized boulders below the bridge marking the start of Fairy Glen. You would however have difficulty overrunning as there are clear markers indicating that you should get out.



After such a good paddle we felt obliged to get an all day breakfast at the Café at the get out and then of course the two and a half hour drive back home, well worth it though. It turned out that Matt and Clive were running late and ended up paddling the river Dee at Llangollen. Also worth mentioning is that the Conwy is open from the 1st October to 28th February and you need to sign in at the café first as only thirty six paddlers are allowed on the river on any one day.

Tom Kington

Want to improve your paddling or gain BCU qualifications?

Coaching and Training for Individuals or Groups

**Kayak/Canoe/Flat Water/Moving Water/Star Awards/Pool Sessions/
White Water Safety/Day trips/Canoe Camping Trips/Taster Sessions**

For Details and Prices Contact Tony Morgan

**Also Available: Indoor/Outdoor Climbing/Sailing/Team Building/Multi
Activity Days/Guided Walks/First Aid Training/Powerboat Training**

CHRISTMAS DINNER & DISCO

ON
SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER

AT
FERRARIS
(Thornley, near Longridge)
Cost £27.00



Starters:-

Melon garnished with fruit.

Soup of the day.

Duo of braised mushrooms.

Prawn Salad.

Medaglione Di Bue:- Beef patties rolled in bacon oven roasted, served with salad and horseradish cream.

Main course:-



Roast Turkey with all the trimmings.

Fillet of salmon with a mango and basil cream.

Sirloin Steak Diane

Pot roast shoulder of lamb with mint gravy.

Pasta with roasted vegetables bound in a garlic, tomato and basil sauce.

Sweets:-



Christmas pudding and rum sauce or choice of homemade sweets.

Don't miss out! First come, first served! Places limited.

Cheques made payable to: Ribble Canoe Club.

Please return the slip below with payment, as soon as possible, but no later than Thursday October 20th, to: Debbie Dowe

BOOKING FORM

Name/s _____

Phone No: _____

Starter/s _____

Main course/s _____

I / We enclose a cheque for:- _____

For Sale

Rover 214 SXi Cat



3Dr Hatchback. 1993 (L Reg) SXi Special Edition, White and Grey. 122500 miles. 1 owner from New, Full Service History with supporting receipts, Sunroof, Central Locking, Alarm & Immobiliser, Towbar & Electrics, mudflaps, Adjustable Mirrors, Radio / Cassette.
MOT and TAX until end of Feb 2006.
Very Clean, Drives Well, a bargain car.
£ 495 ono

Andy Rushton

Pyranha Creek 280

Yellow, with spray deck
£100, offers considered
Peter Dilworth

Free! Kayak with holes in

An old Mountain Bat with a few splits in the hull, covered up with duck tape. It seeps water but very slowly, would be OK for pottering on the canal.

Please note this is **not** suitable for moving water paddling as the hull integrity is sub-standard.

'Buyer' to collect
Jon Westaway

Beginners Course

16th to 30th September

First beginner's course of the winter season was another busy affair, with a wide range of ages, filling 15 of the 16 places. The non-appearance of one candidate left an empty space throughout: a place that could have been filled by somebody on the waiting list. Please could people who book on this or any other course confirm that they are able to attend, and if not let us know as soon as possible.

A roll call of those attending in many cases is also a list of new members, so welcome to Mike and Chris Brooks, Oliver Wood, Michael Alexander, Will Bell, James Brown, Ryan Mc, Marlene Smith, Lee Griffin, Matt Hollows, John Mackey, Simon Glover, Chris Pilkington, Karl Gardener and Ian McGrath.

The canal trips were carried out over two Saturday mornings, with the best weather on the first weekend, but neither was too cold and we missed most of any rain that did fall. Heard that one person on the course did several hand rolls, but none of the instructors claimed credit for it! On the subject of instructors thanks go, as always, to all that gave up their time, in no particular order, Clive, Iain R, Sam K, Ian C, Sam C, Nicky, Andy R, Terry, Mark G, Norman G, Allan H, Dave E, John K, Mark L and Tom for collecting names before the course and money when it started. Thanks again,

Tony Morgan



Robin, JC, Nicky, Linden, Bill and I left Fort William on September 5th, arriving in Inverness on September 10th having completed the 65 mile paddle.

Our first night was spent at a campsite on the shores of Loch Eil at Corpach and Saturday 10th was the return journey back to Preston and Nottingham.



Monday 5th September

29km Corpach to Clunes Forest, Loch Lochy



Sunset over Loch Eil

Robin, JC, Linden and Nicky all come from Nottingham and are members of Nottingham Canoe club. Sunday was spent travelling up to Scotland from Preston and Nottingham.

An early start was required on the Monday morning in order to paddle with the tide

through the narrows into Loch Linnhe and up the river Lochy into Loch Lochy where we were to wild camp.

The paddle from the campsite and up the river was overshadowed by the dramatic effect of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, the height is emphasised by the fact that it begins its rise from the shores of Loch Linnhe, to tower 4,406 feet (1,344m) above the town of Fort William, providing an almost paternal presence always overlooking our journey. For a good part of the day, Ben Nevis's presence could be seen in the distance.



We chose to pole up river rather than portage the 12 locks in Neptune's Staircase on the Caledonian Canal. Progress was very slow; in fact I am sure that at times we were going backwards. As we had to make our campsite before nightfall it was decided to drag the fully laden canoes up a 40ft bank on to the Caledonian canal. It took us a good hour to do that and another 30 minutes to recover over lunch. As we dragged the boats up the bank all I could think of was why did we have so much food and kit – minimalism sprang to mind, perhaps we will do better next year?

The Caledonian canal joins a series of lochs through what is known as the Great Glen - Lochs Dochfour, Ness, Oich and Lochy and at each end connects to the sea; the North Sea at Inverness via the Moray Firth and the Atlantic Ocean at Corpach near Fort William.

The canal, built by Thomas Telford and William Jessop in 1822, is used as a shipping

route to save going around the north of Scotland via the tempestuous Pentland Firth.

Tuesday 6th September

24km Loch Lochy to Fort Augustus

After a warm hazy night we left the camp early in the morning heading for Fort Augustus, the shops and a comfy bed via the Caledonian canal, the river and Loch Oich.



The river was a grade 2 to 2+ in places so you needed to concentrate and think about what you were doing in order to avoid a soaking. I think that Linden and JC were deep in thought about the shops and shopping in Fort Augustus and got caught by a stopper, taking a good chilling dunking that soaked all their kit. So instead of shopping, the evening for them was spent drying out gear.

The only shop we had seen since we started our expedition was manned by a dour Scot who did not appreciate the English humour. We stopped for hot drinks and some nice fresh rolls with ham followed by really buttery shortbread.

There was a fine westerly breeze, ideal for sailing, so we rafted up the 3 canoes by lashing the bow of the two outside boats to the thwart of the leading middle boat and lashing the thwarts of the two outside boats to the stern of the middle leading boat. The provided a fairly stable sailing rig that allowed us to set sail to our next camp site in Fort Augustus.



Sailing on Loch Oich

The fort in Fort Augustus used to be called Kilchumin, and was built in 1716 for the purpose of keeping the Highlanders in check. It was captured by the Jacobites in 1745, but reoccupied after the battle of Culloden, when it received its present name in honour of William~Augustus~ duke of Cumberland. We paddled near to Invergarry castle which was built by the MacDonells (or MacDonalds) of Glengarry in the early 1600s, it was not long after burnt to the ground by Cromwellian forces in 1654.

The castle was re-fortified, and visited twice by Bonnie Prince Charlie but subsequently blown up by his enemy, the Duke of Cumberland.



Invergarry Castle

Wednesday 7th September

10km Fort Augustus to Loch Ness

Today was to be an easy day, we could have paddled up the Caledonian Canal again in

order to do the river Oich again but given the water levels were so low we could use the time better improving some of our skills. We all felt that after a disastrous effort at poling on the river Lochy we would spend a few hours mastering the art of poling and snubbing on the river Oich. We all eventually managed to pole up the rapid, a big improvement on my grass poling last year.



Poling on River Oich

Wednesday night saw us camped out on the shores of Loch Ness and sampling the Scottish whisky. Nicky taught us a new game, it required us to stand in a circle and pass a ball round without touching the ball with our hands. A great game for keeping warm.

When the rain got too heavy we retired to a bar to keep warm. We drank Knockando whisky which is quite sweet and creamy and comes from the Spey, a river we paddled last year. The drinks ensured that we had a good night's sleep and although there was a lot of rainfall, our canoe shelters kept us surprisingly very dry.

Thursday 8th September

21km Loch Ness to Dores

After a really good night's sleep we awoke to an attack of the midges. We packed up in record time and beat a hasty retreat to the middle of the loch. The weather was not so good and the wind was more easterly and therefore not suitable for putting up the sail.

Whilst paddling up Loch Ness a strange phenomena occurred, waves appeared from nowhere, I firmly believe that it was Nessie tracking us and flicking her tail underwater causing the waves.

Thursday night was again spent on the shores of Loch Ness. Our food supplies were running down and we were down to soya and vac pac vegetables which keeps quite well and is suitable for expeditions. Not sure that soya is a favourite of mine and had I known that the pub did food I may not have bothered to cook. We did visit the pub though and sampled a Macallan, a delicious whisky that is matured in a sherry barrel, again from Speyside.



Canoe Shelter

On this trip we did not use a tent, instead we made a shelter by turning the canoe on its side, erected a tarpaulin and used one of the paddles to hold the tarp up as can be seen in the picture. There was a stack of driftwood available so we kept a fire going to cook on as well as keep all the midges away.

Friday 9th September

23km Dores to Inverness

Friday was the last day and saw us paddling the River Ness, with a few very small rapids and one grade 2. We paddled into Inverness stopping for fish and chips and a hot drink

before entering the Moray Firth on route to our final campsite.



Inverness was quite spectacular and our journey up the Moray Firth was accompanied by some inquisitive seals.

The paddle up the Moray Firth was quite hectic, we were battling against the wind and trying to beat the tide. We did not want to be paddling against the tide, nor have to carry the boats across the mud flats to the campsite.



The sunset was quiet spectacular and to celebrate we had a traditional meal of Scotch broth, neaps and tatties followed by a shot of Arbourlor, another Spey side whisky, a perfect end to a perfect week's journey from Fort William to Inverness.

Sara Withall

Chairman's Chat

Heeeeere's Halton! Yes it's white water time again on our local rivers – so get out there while you can. Of course the first Sunday at Halton was spoilt by HIGH water levels – yer just can't win! The second Sunday was glorious with sunshine and good water levels for all. Beginners seemed to enjoy themselves and some intermediate paddlers enjoyed up to six swims (each). The slalom Div One's were out in force and declaring Halton some of the best white water in England. We don't ask a lot do we – months of low water misery, then one good days paddling has us whooping and running round in ecstasy.

Someone who won't be doing much running for a while is Bev who broke her leg badly (really well actually) on the day she returned from Loch Ken. The story goes that she slipped whilst carrying her sea canoe with Steve down her rather steep drive. Without any thought for her own safety she threw herself beneath the canoe like a mother hen protecting her chickens. After giving her a severe talking to, Steve rushed her to hospital

where she remained for five days. I'm glad to say she's now back home, out of plaster and laughing again. You can't keep a canoeist down. And the irony is that she'd walked 14 miles over rough tracks in Scotland the day before she slipped on her drive, silly girl!

I hope that articles appear elsewhere in this autumnal literary frolic regarding Ian McCreerie's October Scottish White Water Trip and the 5-day Loch Ken jaunt organised by Allan Hacking. *[Just checked, no, there's nothing. Hold on, I'll check again to be sure. Nope, sorry! Never mind, maybe next issue – Martin]*

The numbers booking on the Christmas Do are down this year – so if anyone has ideas of new formats, venues or dates, please make your views known to a committee member or to Debbie Dowe who I hope will be organising next years Do.

Terry Maddock

Looking for water

On Monday Barry had paddled on the Llugwy in the aftermath of four inches of rain in twelve hours, describing it as the “most water he had ever seen”, most of the Monday night news and weather reports agreed, flood warnings were numerous.

On Wednesday we were peering over bridges, seeing more river bed than water and dismissing several rivers due to the shortage. We were also wishing we hadn't enticed Barry from Runcorn and the bursting Welsh rivers to come North. Barry, Nick and Tom were on half term break, John took a day off and I had no work, so a couple of late night calls had us rounded up and enthusiastically heading for the spate runs of the Eastern

Lakes. As the road paralleled the Lune we got the deflating sight of a river at a medium level which meant it was a rather optimistic plan to check out one of the tributaries, the Roeburn. A quick look at Wray bridge dismissed our first choice and that was the same for the neighbouring Hyndburn and Ingleton Greta, so we headed further North to Sedburgh. After a few more detours we launched from the A684 bridge on the Clough in only just enough water, another foot would have been welcome.

I've done it a bit lower but given the recent weather I was still surprised by the lack of paddling in the area 36 hours after the deluge. Low, high or medium (and I've done it at all

those levels) the best parts of the Clough are always worth doing, but today the lack of water on the lower stretches would border on frustrating. If you've never done the Clough the main interest is in the shelves and drops of the narrow sculptured limestone gorge. The guide-book gives it 3 stars, saying "continuously interesting...a great section...some fun rapids".

Weaving around and stretching your neck to check over the numerous horizon lines leads you over the drops. Looking back upstream at a staircase of rapids gives an impression of the gradient. Eventually the gorge walls lower and the river spreads out, the more open nature of the river bed evidence of a change in geological periods. It livens up again at the end, over shelving bedrock rapids before spilling with a bang into the Rawthey and another 15-minute paddle had us at the take out.

A couple of other local boaters, extending the Clough trip to take in the lower Rawthey rapids, stopped for a chat. In true British fashion we talked about the weather that had been, what was due and when we would be out again. Let's hope that elusive 12 inches of water is around for the next one.

Muddy waters

Supermarket trolleys, salmon, cotton buds, trout, tyres and kingfishers, talk about contrast, we saw them all. The 'we', Paul Wicks and myself had the chance of a midweek paddle and wanted something close to home, short, and (for me) different.

At the take out, Burrs, water flowed round each side of the island below the road bridge, indicating that the upper section of the Irwell was a good medium level. The put in we used was 4 miles up the road at Nuttall Park, parking by the river and launching straight into the gorge. This avoids a bit of flat water and an awkward weir at Ramsbottom. Here at the park the river starts to descend between the high sandstone walls of the gorge, through

constantly interesting rock gardens. Feels a long way from the out of sight urban geography that was surrounding us. As the river steepens, an impressive waterfall drops from the top of the cliff over the stepped bedding planes, before joining the river at the hardest section.

Eventually the gorge eases giving way to civilisation, passing under a restaurant built on a bridge, surfing below the main road, dropping over another broken weir. From here on it meanders through fields and we notice the dipping flight of a Kingfisher before rounding a bend and arriving at the Burrs weir.

A quick look at the weir showed an impressive towback on the left and a solid cascade down the steps on the right. As we portaged around we watched a large salmon and a smaller trout leaping the steps. Back on the water we finished the trip down the course, washed out in some places, interesting boils and eddy lines in others. Given the local environment this is a great little paddle, try it.

Duddon, Sunday 6th November

The closer we got the more water there was, in the streams, fields, even flooding the roads and killing a few cars. Luckily not ours, but five French tourists were last seen trying to dry out the air filter of a dead engine. Once on the river it was a roller coaster trip on one of the prettier Lake District rivers, at a great level.

Flooded roads left the drivers with a 2.5 mile walk back for the vehicles, parked on the other side of one of the bigger 'road ponds'. They finally returned in the dark to collect the rest of our kit and us.

You could have found out more about it if anyone had volunteered to write the article, but sorry they didn't! Shame on you.

Tony Morgan



Would you like to learn to canoe?

Ribble Canoe Club is running a beginners' course starting on Friday 20th January 2006 which will teach the basic skills necessary to paddle a kayak.

The course includes a classroom session to look at the theory of canoeing, three pool sessions to gain practical experience, and an outdoor session on the Lancaster Canal or a similar venue.

No previous experience is necessary.

For the first three weeks the course will take place in the swimming pool at Fulwood Leisure Centre, Black Bull Lane, Preston. The club has all the equipment necessary including kayaks and paddles, so all you need to bring is yourself - and your swimming costume, of course! (At the end of the pool session you will need to carry your equipment outside to the store before you get changed, so flip-flops or water shoes and an old t-shirt would also be a good idea.)

The course will run from 8:00pm until 10:00pm on the 2th January, and 9:00pm until 10:00pm on the 27th January and 3rd February. Please arrive about 15 minutes before the start time to give time to get equipment sorted out.

The final session will take place during the day on a Saturday or Sunday (date to be decided), either on the Lancaster Canal near the Hand and Dagger at Salwick or at another similar venue. You will need to wear warm clothing and a cagoule (but they may get dirty or wet so don't wear your best gear!), and bring a change of clothes. Again, all other equipment will be provided.

The maximum cost of the course will be £34 per person, which includes the cost of the instruction, pool hire and membership of Ribble Canoe Club for 2006. Membership costs are less for junior members and for additional members of the same family.

For further details, or to book a place please telephone:

Tom Byrne

Ribble CC Library

To borrow a book or video, just ring Clive Robinson or see him at the Hand & Dagger. Donations of books or videos are always welcome.

Technique:

General technique

BCU Handbook

Franco Ferrero

The Practical Guide to Kayaking and Canoeing

Bill Mattos, Andy Middleton

Canoeing & Kayaking

Marcus Bailie

Kayak

William (not Bill) Nealy

The Bombproof Roll and Beyond!

Paul Dutky

Eskimo Rolling for Survival

Derek Hutchinson.

White Water Safety & Rescue

Franco Ferrero

Weir Wisdom Rapids

Tim Parkes

Canoe & Kayak Games



Dave Ruse/Loel Collins

Playboating

The Playboater's Handbook

Ken Whiting

Sea Kayaking

The Complete Book of Sea Kayaking

Derek C. Hutchinson

Sea Kayak Navigation

Franco Ferrero

Open Canoeing

Path of the Paddle

Bill Mason, Paul Mason

Canoeing

Laurie Gullion

Open Canoe Technique

Nigel Foster

Guidebooks:

English White Water

Franco Ferrero

Scottish White Water

Andy Jackson

White Water Lake District

Stuart Miller

An Atlas of the English Lakes

John Parker

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 Dunnott

Odyssey among the Inuit

Jonathan Waterman

Barbed Wire & Babushkas



Paul Grogan

General:

The Rough Guide to Weather

Robert Henson

The Liquid Locomotive

John Long (ed)

Many Rivers to Run

Dave Manby

Norwegian rivers

Canoe Focus

BCU N/W Newsletter

Videos / DVDs

Tony Morgan in the Grand Canyon (DVD)

LVM Lunch Video Magazine (DVD)

Liffey Descent (V)

Deliverance (V, 18)

Extreme Sports Canoeing (V)

A Taste of White Water (V)

Wicked Water 2(V)

Ribble Newsletters (CD)

Drill Time (V)

Doubleyouess (DVD)

Without a Paddle (DVD, 13)



Donated by Adam Fielder

Whitewater Kayaking DVD



Ken Whiting

Donated by Clive Robinson

Pool sessions

The following lists the pool sessions booked at Fulwood Leisure Centre, the contact for the courses and the lifeguard on duty for each session. All sessions are Friday 9:00pm – 10:00pm.

DATE	SESSION	CONTACT	SUPERVISOR
Nov 25 th	Rolling course	Bob Smith	Terry Maddock
Dec 2 nd	Rolling course	Bob Smith	Clive Robinson
Dec 9 th	Flat water rescue session	Dave Ellison	Allan Hacking
Dec 16 th	Open	N/A	Mark Loftus
Dec 23 rd	Open	N/A	Mark Green
Dec 30 th	*Christmas Break*	No Session	
Jan 6 th	Open	N/A	John Kington
Jan 13 th	Polo	Jacky Draper	Terry Maddock
Jan 20 th	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Clive Robinson
Jan 27 th	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Allan Hacking
Feb 3 rd	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Mark Loftus
Feb 10 th	Slalom	Jacky Draper	Mark Green
Feb 17 th	Open	N/A	John Kington
Feb 24 th	Open	N/A	Terry Maddock
Mar 3 rd	Polo	Jacky Draper	Clive Robinson
Mar 10 th	Slalom	Jacky Draper	Allan Hacking
Mar 17 th	Rolling	Bob Smith	Mark Loftus
Mar 24 th	Rolling	Bob Smith	Mark Green
Mar 31 st	Rolling	Bob Smith	Clive Robinson
Apr 7 th	Open	N/A	Terry Maddock
Apr 14 th	*Good Friday*	No Session	

Prices: Beginners Course £20, Rolling Course £15 (both plus club membership).
Rescue/Rolling clinic £5. All other sessions £3.

Please book in advance for the Beginners and Rolling Courses and the Rescue/Rolling clinic by phoning the named contact.

Editor's bit

Dates and deadlines

The next committee meeting will be on
January 10th at 7:30 at the Hand & Dagger.
The next newsletter will be published on

January 24th. All submissions to me by
Saturday January 21st at the latest please.

Martin Stockdale
secretary@ribblecanoecub.co.uk



Other	Junior Polo	Ladies Polo	Mens Polo	Advanced Slalom	Beginners Slalom	Canoe Surfing	Open Canoeing	Sea Trips	Advanced River Trips	Intermediate River Trips	Beginners River Trips	Lake Trips	Flat Water & Lake Trips	Social Events	Hand & Dagger Keyholder	Lifeguard	Instructor or Coach	Canoe Courses	Agreements	General Information Access	Committee	Area of Interest				
																						Contact	Telephone			
Christmas Party (Debbie)								✓							✓								Andy & Debbie Dowe			
Rolling Course																		✓						Bob Smith		
										✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	Memb. Secretary		Brian Woodhouse		
Website													✓											Chris & Janet Porter		
Library, Training Coordinator																					✓			Clive Robinson		
Summer Course									✓	✓							✓	✓		✓	✓			Dave Ellison		
																	✓	✓			✓			Grahame Coles		
			✓												✓									Ian McCreerie		
	✓				✓																✓			Jacky Draper		
													✓			✓				✓				Hon. Treasurer	John Kington	
																					✓			Mark Loftus		
											✓				✓					✓				Hon. Secretary, Newsletter	Martin Stockdale	
			✓	✓																				Mick Huddlestan		
							✓	✓		✓														Nick Pope & Sam Turner		
		✓															✓							Nicky Marsh		
				✓	✓										✓					✓	✓			Peter Jones		
									✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			Quartermaster	Steve Swarbrick	
								✓		✓						✓				✓	✓			Steve Wilkinson		
					✓						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			Hon. Chairman, Calendar	Terry Maddock	
										✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓			Tim Langridge		
d'Ribbler's Award (swim reports)													✓		✓					✓	✓			Tom Byrne		

CALENDAR

Last minute trips organised at Hand & Dagger (Weds, 6:30pm onwards) or Fulwood Leisure Centre (Fri, 9:00pm).
If you have any dates for the calendar please contact **Terry Maddock (01253 838502)**

Ribble CC development trips are in **bold**.

Ribble CC recreational events (assumed risk) are in **bold italic**.

Other Ribble CC events are in *italic*.

Events in normal type are external events advertised for information only.

River information:

Burrs 0161 764 9649

www.activity-centre.freeserve.co.uk

Canolfan Tryweryn 01678 520826

www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk

Tees Barrage 01642 678000

www.4seasons.co.uk

Washburn 0845 833 8654

<http://www.bcu.org.uk/yorkshire>

Wharfe

<http://www.bcu.org.uk/yorkshire>

Trips / Events

November

27 ***R Wharfe Moving Water
Hebden to Barden (near Skipton)
Grahame Coles***

December

4 **Beginners' Trip R Wenning
High Bentham, W Yorks.
Terry Maddock**

10 Tees Barrage
Stockton on Tees
14.15 - 20.00 (tide height 2.0m)

11 ***R. Leven White Water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria
Tony Morgan***

11 ***Flat Water Trip
Top Locks, Leeds/Liv Canal
Tom Byrne***

11 Tees Barrage
Stockton on Tees
15.30 - 20.00 (tide height 1.8m)

17 ***Christmas Party
Ferraris, Thornley, Longridge
Debbie Dowe***

18 ***Greta White Water
R.Greta, Keswick
Tony Morgan***

24 Tees Barrage
Stockton on Tees
12.30 - 18.30 (tide height 2.3m)

25 Unwrap new canoeing gear
at home with family
Father Christmas Up t'Chimney

January

1 If you fancy a New Year paddle try
Halton on Lune - All swims go onto
the 2006 tally!!

8 ***R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria
John Kington***

10 *Committee Meeting*

15 ***Crake white water
Coniston W. to Greenodd
Grahame Coles***

21 *Newsletter Deadline*

22 ***Flat Water Trip
Coniston
Tom Byrne***

22 ***R. Kent white water
Kendal, Cumbria
Tony Morgan***

29 **Beginners & Intermediate
Halton (Last Sunday Access)
Dave Ellison**

29 R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria

February

5 **Beginners' Trip
R. Rothay, Ambleside, Cumbria
Terry Maddock**

5 R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria

12 **R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria
Grahame Coles**

16 *AGM*

19 **Ribble/Calder Moving Water
Haslingden to Ribchester
Brian Woodhouse**

26 R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria

26 ***Greta white water
R.Greta, Keswick
Andy Rushton***

Future Dates

6-10 Oct 2006

*Scottish White Water Week
Roy Bridge, nr Spean Bridge
Ian McCrerie*

Slalom

Please see www.canoeslalom.co.uk for
event details and to confirm dates.

January

22 Stafford & Stone Mini Slalom

February

5 Stafford & Stone Mini Slalom

26 Stafford & Stone Mini Slalom

NOTE: 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.