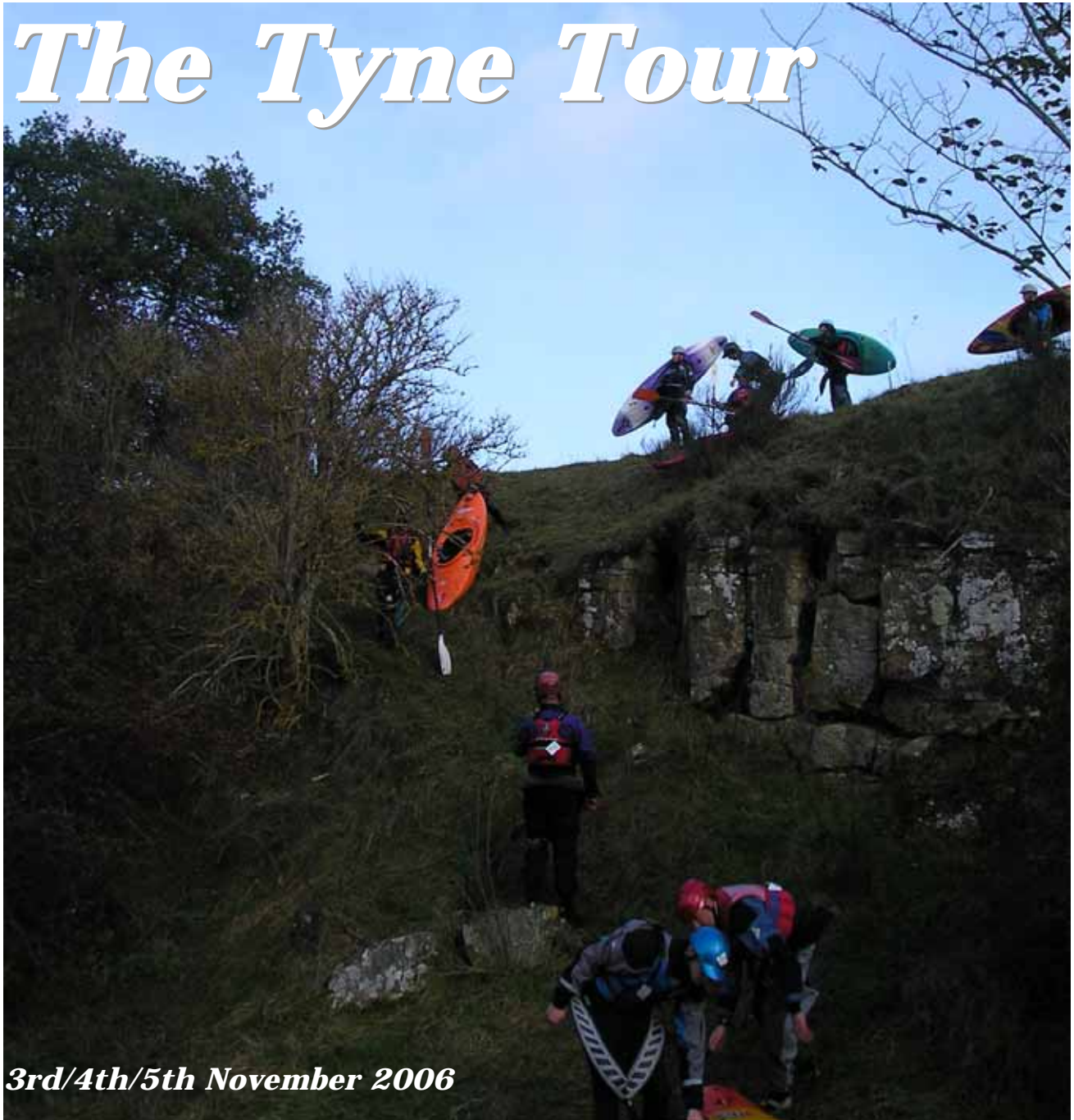


TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

The Tyne Tour



Friday

On the Friday night I arrived home after school and finished packing my camping and paddling kit for the weekend ahead. The

Hacking family were picking me up on route to Hexham. We then had a good run up to Hexham until we reached road works on the M1. Eventually we reached Hexham and the Tyne Green, and after a bit of texting/phoning

people we finally found the rest of the group. After 10 minutes tents were up and we decided to walk into town to find somewhere for a drink – but too late they were all full so we headed back to the tent where we stood in the cold with a can. We eventually made it to bed in the early hours of Saturday morning, but without much chance of sleep with the uni groups returning a bit the worse for wear and tripping over guy ropes.

Saturday

Paddlers: Jo, Steph and Allan Hacking, Nicky and Tony Marsh, Iain and Clive Robinson, Tom and John Kington, Rob Fair, Dave and James Vaudrey and me.



Saturday morning came and quite a sight on the green - every bit of grass was populated by tents, boats, paddles or kit.



Eventually we were all ready to go so Clive and Iain's boats were loaded onto Nicky and Tony's car and we were off. We joined quite

a long convoy to the get in, at Barrasford, where the 'car park' was the edge of a football pitch. We took a bit of time getting kit into boats and getting on, but eventually we were joining the hundreds of people getting on.



At the top we saw a couple of guys in camouflage sat in a matching topo duo. After a quick warm up we ran the first set of rapids river right, where it was more avoid rocks if you wanted any boat left at the end of the weekend. From here it was long flat sections with small boulder rapids with the odd small play wave. The only notable feature was the large weir at Chollerford. Even this was simple enough, point straight down roughly in the middle and you slide straight down.



After the weir we stopped for a break to refuel and have hot drinks to warm up. After this it was the same long flat bits with the odd boulder rapid with play waves here and there.

We eventually reached Warden Gorge, the most talked about rapid on the river, however

it didn't live up to the stories we had heard about people swimming all the way down it. It was a chain of standing waves; as long as you kept paddling you were fine. We ran it in small groups; I followed Tony down first, then after short breaks others followed lead by John and then Nicky. Everyone made it down safely.

There was a nice surf wave at the bottom where we spent a long time surfing, due to the large number of others trying to do the same thing and the number of boats, swimmers and kit we pulled out, mainly from the uni groups. The rest of the river was flat, which required a lot of effort to get to the finish.



When we were all off and changed Clive took the car owners back up to the top to pick up their cars. Once they had returned we walked up to the town, to join the extremely long queue at the chippy before going to watch Hexham's spectacular annual firework display.



We then made our way to the leisure centre for a night of socialising, dancing and drinking. When the local band had a break it was quite amusing watching some of the uni groups provide us with entertainment – who could build the tallest human tower. I have to say some groups were more successful than others but most of them ended in bodies piled on the floor after what looked like painful falls.

We returned to the tents at 12.30 Sunday morning but struggled to get any sleep due to Teesside uni being just down the field and the party (including loud music) coming from the Desperate Measures tent.

Sunday

Paddlers: Jo, Steff and Allan Hacking, Nicky and Tony Marsh, Iain Robinson and Dave (a friend of Tony and Nicky)

Sunday ran pretty much the same as the Saturday other than there was a lot less people on the river and Nicky was demoing a Wavesport from UK Canoes.



We got off the river early afternoon and started packing up soggy kit and tents ready for the trip home.

Thanks to Allan Hacking for organising it and for the lift both ways, Iain for the photos and to Nicky for being the leader on the water.

Helen James



This event, like several others, started for me at the Hand & Dagger (which is a long way from the River Tyne). After a drink, in the warmth and comfort of the pub, surrounded by like-minded paddlers I was talked into spending a weekend in November paddling down the North & South Tyne.

For those not familiar with the Tyne Tour, this is an annual event organised by the Northern Region of the BCU. They organise things like river access, parking at put-ins and get-outs, water releases, camping, Saturday night entertainment, and lots of other things too numerous to mention, but necessary to the smooth running of an event for over 1000 paddlers.

I had never really considered this event before because it had a reputation of being frequented by hardy people who want to spend the weekend paddling en-masse down Warden Gorge, the grade four section of the North Tyne. The rest of the time would be spent camping in tents at Tyne Green Country Park in Hexham or getting drunk at the Ceilidh held at the Leisure Centre on Saturday Night.

So if that is not my thing why did I go? The answer is that we would do it in our own “Genteel” way, one more suited to the “Free Bus Pass Owning” mature person.

No one is quite sure who actually came up with the idea, but Andy & Debbie Dowe mentioned that they had attended a previous Tyne Tour and had done the trip on the North Tyne from Falstone, just below Kielder Water, to Barrasford, which is about 4 miles upstream of Warden Gorge. They said that it was a very scenic trip and although it is about 21 miles, the release of water from Kielder Water provides a steady flow of about 3 miles an hour, making it a reasonably easy trip. The river would be no more than grade 3, the first 7 miles would be mainly an easy grade 2. The time taken to complete the distance would be in the region of 3.5 to 4 hours. After looking at the map we noticed that there were other places to end the trip at Bellingham, after about 8 miles, or Wark, after about 14 miles, if we did not want to do the whole 21 miles.

The other possible trip was on the South Tyne from Haydon Bridge to Hexham. This is a distance of about 9.5 miles and is grade 2-3,

but water levels on this river are at the mercy of the weather as for most rivers.

Having decided that the paddling could be good we now approached the issue of accommodation for the weekend. Some of our members decided that they would camp at Tyne Green in Hexham, whilst some of us decided we would prefer to use a local B & B to ensure a warm comfortable bed away from the noise of the campsite.

There were 6 people interested in doing the Tour B & B style: Pat & Norman Green, Andy & Debbie Dowe and Albert & Cath Risely. Having made her own accommodation arrangements, Sue Sharman did a cameo appearance on Sunday accompanied by husband Chris.

The event took place over the weekend of the 4th & 5th November so there was also a Bonfire & Fireworks display organised in a local park for the Saturday evening.

Pat assumed her seat at her computer and surfed the internet where she came up with a promising looking B & B place in the centre of Hexham, this was booked and the six of us were now guaranteed a warm dry place to stay for the weekend.

Hexham is a typical small Northumbrian market town surrounded by beautiful scenery and situated about a mile downstream of the confluence of the North & South Tyne. It is also just south of the line of Hadrian's Wall where much time has been spent in recent years excavating Roman Ruins and building museums. These museums exhibit the Roman Artefacts to the public in an attempt to cover the cost of the work, and develop the tourist trade.

Friday

As the weather forecast for the weekend was good Pat and I decided to travel up on Friday and visit the Roman Site at Vindolanda on the way. We were joined by Albert & Cath Risely who decided to do likewise. It was a bright

sunny day with not a cloud in the sky, however it was a little cold with temperatures into single figures. After looking around the site and museum we soon realised why the Romans were always building properties with under-floor heating. We read all sorts of interesting facts, like the fact that over the years the locals had stolen stone from parts of Hadrian's Wall to build farmhouses etc. Bet they didn't let Hadrian catch them though. There was also a display showing a wooden crate of broken pottery from Roman Times. It explained that this had been imported all the way from some far flung part of the Roman Empire but when it arrived it was all broken and was thrown into the Moat around the fort. I wouldn't mind betting that it was done in a bit of a Roman temper. No doubt the Roman "White Chariot Man" delivering the goods was driving too fast along the cobbled surface of "Watling Street." It's a pity the Romans didn't invent "Bubble Wrap."



By late afternoon we decided to head off to Hexham with a small detour to Haydon Bridge to check out the level of the South Tyne, the subject of Sunday's Trip.

We arrived at Hexham and went down to the Information Tent at Tyne Green to register and check out the latest information on river levels. All seemed set for a good weekend so after a quick look around the trade stands we set off to find the B & B.

The B & B was a rather grand sounding "Queensgate House" but was in fact 2 large semi-detached houses in the same ownership,

one house used by the proprietor and the other used as visitor accommodation. It was in need of a little modernisation and maintenance but was otherwise ideally suited to our needs; with warm comfortable rooms, clean linen and ample en-suite or personal bathroom facilities. There was a lounge with TV, and a basement dining room where we ate our "Full English Breakfast."



By the time we settled in and unpacked our bags, Andy & Debbie arrived, so off we went to have a meal. Earlier we had spotted a quiet Wetherspoons pub serving food, and decided that it would be OK, unfortunately by the time we arrived it was packed to the rafters so we had to go for plan B, look for somewhere else.

At this point I ought to mention that Andy & Debbie had been to a very nice Italian Restaurant called Fortini's, on their previous visit to Hexham, so they had made a reservation for us all for the Saturday evening. After a little wandering around we decide that the most likely looking place to eat was a place called "La Stalla" so we went in and managed to get a table for 6. Someone happened to ask what was the name of the place we were booked into on Saturday, it turned out that it was the same place, it had recently changed its name from Fortini's. No problem, the food and service was good on both evenings.

Saturday

Saturday dawned and after a hearty Full English Breakfast we organised ourselves for the intended trip down the North Tyne from Falstone to Barrasford. Cath had only recently recovered from a shoulder injury and had not paddled for about 3 weeks, so we decided to hedge our bets and leave one car at Barrasford (the end), one car at Bellingham (8 miles from the start) and one car at the start at Falstone. This meant that Cath could end the trip at Bellingham if she felt she had done enough. The car shuttling is quite time consuming because of the distances involved and the standard of the roads, but we were on the water by around 11:30.

The river was exactly as described by Andy & Debbie, grade 1 to 2 fast flowing through beautiful scenery, the salmon were jumping and it was rich in bird life. The weather was mild with broken cloud and occasional bright periods. The most surprising thing was that, apart from 3 open Canadian Canoes, there were no other paddlers on the river.

We eventually reached Bellingham where we got out for lunch, at this point Cath decided that she would call it quits and save her energy for the Sunday paddle. The rest of us set off after lunch and paddled on to Wark, roughly a further 6 miles downstream. This section was more testing with several little grade 2/3 rapids, but the scenery had changed from open country to occasional wooded gorges. Once again there was plenty of bird life to observe, particularly herons. We even saw about 12 other paddlers on this section. As we approached the village of Wark we met Cath who had changed and driven down to meet us. By this time Pat, Albert and I decided that it was time to get off the water since we had already paddled 14 miles, the light would soon be going, we still had to drive back up to Falstone for our car, and we had to save some "Gas in the Tank" for the Ceilidh later that evening. Not only that but we would also be paddling again on Sunday.

Andy & Debbie carried on down to Barrasford where their car was waiting, and they only had a fairly short drive back to Hexham. Also they are fitter than the rest of us and I reckon that they had been in secret training for the Ceilidh.

Back in Hexham after the trip Pat & I took a Radox Bath (separately) to ease the aching joints, in preparation for the Ceilidh.

When we set off to the restaurant for dinner we met up with what seemed like the whole population of Hexham, wearing all sorts of things that glowed in the dark, walking in the opposite direction to the Bonfire & Firework display.

We eventually arrived at "La Stalla" for dinner (again) and once more enjoyed a nice civilised meal in nice surroundings. This time we didn't linger too long over the meal since we didn't want to miss out on the Ceilidh, which was due to kick off at 8 o'clock.

We left the restaurant and set off to the Leisure Centre feeling rather full and wondering if all this Italian tucker would stay put during the physical effort involved in "Stripping the Willow" and such like. Once inside the Leisure Centre we met up with our fellow club members who had chosen to camp at Tyne Green. They had chosen to paddle the Warden Gorge section of the North Tyne, so we had not seen them until this point. Conversation was a little difficult due to the noise from the band, so it was difficult to find out how their day had gone. Everyone seemed to get up and dance at some stage during the evening so it seemed that we were all having fun. Some of the more twirly moves were taking a toll on Pat's sense of balance so we never did more than one dance without a long rest in between. This could be achieved by queuing at the bar for a drink, which would definitely give you a chance for a long rest. In fact it amazed me that anyone could actually get drunk.

During an interval in the dancing (to give the band time to get drunk) there was a prize

giving ceremony for races in all different categories. This seemed a little chaotic as people were getting even more high spirited (drunk) and various university canoe clubs wanted to build human pyramids to see who could fall off from the greatest height and make the loudest thud when their heads hit the floor (perhaps this is where the term "Head banger" originates). Fortunately there was no damage to the dance floor, so after the interval the cerebral fluid was mopped up, the band returned and the dancing continued.

At a reasonable hour the six of us returned to our B & B to get some sleep so as to be ready for the Sunday trip down the South Tyne.

Sunday

If the river seemed quiet on Saturday it was positively hushed on Sunday morning when we drove to Haydon Bridge. This could be partly explained by the amount of "Human Pyramid Lubricant" consumed at the Ceilidh. In fact we never saw any paddlers until we reached the confluence of the North and South Tyne (and they were pretty quiet).



The water level was a bit low in places on the South Tyne but still provided an enjoyable trip, with kingfishers, herons, ducks and leaping salmon much in evidence. We also had a following wind, (no jokes about too much Italian food please) which helped us along nicely.

The low water meant that a bit of route finding was sometimes necessary, so we took

it in turns to take the lead, so that we could all share equal blame when we got it wrong. I can claim the prize for causing the longest walk and I have paddled the river twice before (memory not what it was). Speaking of which, I remember there being a weir on this section of river, but we never saw it this time. A point Andy and Debbie agreed with, since they have also paddled it before. (How can you simply misplace a weir?)

Cath was particularly impressed with the trip, especially as she doesn't like weirs and I told her there was one on this trip. She was even learning to do a "Yeeehaa" when she reached the bottom of a rapid. She also discovered vocabulary she never knew she possessed until Albert "Got in Her F***** way" whilst trying to help her get free from being stuck on a rock. (What gratitude!!) . Not sure if that vocabulary is appropriate for a "Genteel Tour."



By the time we reached Tyne Green the weather had started to go cold & windy so we changed into dry clothes and had a quick lunch and hot drinks ready for the trip home. We said our goodbyes to the other club members still around and set off home reflecting on what a good weekend it had been, even if we had lost a perfectly good weir. (If the locals could steal part of Hadrian's Wall a weir would be no problem)

Whilst writing this article I obtained a little information from anonymous sources about the events on the Warden Gorge section of the

North Tyne. As I was not present, I obviously can't verify the information so you must take it as hearsay. What's more I do not want the truth to get in the way of a good story.



Apparently all the Ribble paddlers coped well with the water and, given its reputation, were surprised it was not more challenging. Having said that, Helen had a swim on the Saturday. On Sunday, Sue (I am not swimming down that Warden Gorge again) Sharman kept up her 100% record from last year (by my reckoning the score now stands at Warden Gorge 3 Sue 0). It was of course Chris's fault for taking her the wrong way down. Although it was my understanding that she had thoroughly inspected things from the river last year and should know it pretty well by now.

I would like to thank Andy & Debbie Dowe for their invaluable input and knowledge which made the trips possible and enjoyable.

Thanks to Cath Risely, Iain Robinson and Allan Hacking for the photographs.

Thanks should also go to the people and organisations who make the Tyne Tour event possible. According to the Tour Ticket these are: -

Tynedale Council, The Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water, The Riparian Owners and all the volunteers who helped.

Norman Green

AGM 2006

Notice is hereby given that the Ribble Canoe Club AGM will be held on Thursday 22nd February 2007 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 2006.

Current Committee members are:

Chairman	Terry Maddock
Secretary	Martin Stockdale * (Standing down as Secretary)
Treasurer	John Kington * (Standing down as Treasurer)
Competition Secretary	Susan Shaw
Quartermaster	Steve Swarbrick *
General Committee	Tom Byrne *
	Dave Ellison *
	Peter Jones *
	Tom Kington (Retiring)
	Tim Langridge *
	Mark Loftus
	Clive Robinson
	Brian Woodhouse (Membership) *
Co-opted during the year	Iain Robinson

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

Tom Kington is retiring from the committee because he has left for University. The committee thanks Tom for his contributions as Youth Representative. Iain Robinson has taken over from him and will be standing for election.

Proposals for the role of Secretary and Treasurer, 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!

Canals

*This is where
it all started*

Living only 5 minutes away from the Bridgewater Canal allows me to build up my learning skills at paddling and at the same time keep fit on Sunday mornings.

This particular Sunday I thought I would start at the beginning of the first ever canal network in the UK and my aim was to cross over the Manchester Ship Canal at Barton, travelling over the famous Barton Swing Aqueduct. – known locally as the ‘eighth wonder of the world’.

My starting point is Worsley, many of you may already know but the water here can only be described as ‘Rusty Tin’ coloured. This colour is a result of all the iron ore seeping from the 42 miles of underground tunnels where Francis Edgerton, the Duke of Bridgewater’s mining empire lay. The underground canal network reaches up to Farnworth and across to Bolton and was finally sealed and closed up in the early 1960’s. Entrances to the mines are still visible today at Worsley Delph.



*Start of the 42 miles of underground tunnels at
Worsley Delph*

The canal was the first of its kind built in this country in the 1760’s as a result of a visit to Italy by the Duke where he perceived the idea of canals. An interesting point to note here, it is thought by local historians that John Gilbert, the Duke’s labour master/ land surveyor thought of the idea of puddling the canal with clay to keep it watertight. This

concept was demonstrated in parliament by Brindley who received the accolade for his idea. However, the pub nearby called the John Gilbert serves very fine ales, so all is not lost.

Having received several funny looks from the early morning dog walkers I found a good spot for setting off and began my boyhood dream of paddling along the canal.

At Worsley can be seen one of the most photographed sites in Greater Manchester, the Packet House (the black & white house pictured above). It was here where Queen Victoria took a short trip along the canal after visiting Lord Ellesmere, the Duke of Bridgewater in 1851.

At Worsley there is the choice, either to head towards Leigh where the Bridgewater joins the Leeds Liverpool Canal, or carry on towards Manchester; my destination being Barton Swing Aqueduct, I was paddling towards Manchester. After 10 minutes the water had lost its rusty tin colour and reverted back to normal, complete with the usual floating coke cans and polystyrene chip trays.

I was heading on to Monton to see the only lighthouse on the canal system. Not a working lighthouse but a folly built by Phil Austin.



Monton Lighthouse

It's his labour of love and has cost him £20,000 so far. Why build it? Because he wanted to. Cannot argue with that. The lighthouse, 36 feet tall, has three floors and the top has a 360-degree view. Phil sold his canal barge to pay for his folly and soon will

be fitting a light, which will flash on special occasions.

Passing this point, I noticed that several people had stopped and got out of their cars to take photos of his 'dream' retreat. What a super place to sit and watch the world go by.

Onward toward Barton and I'm already passing the derelict building of the once mighty Royal Ordnance factory at Eccles. Remnants of the former factory have been spayed with graffiti paint; trees & shrubs grow out of upstairs windows and gutters. A very sad sight to see for a building which employed many people from Eccles & Patricroft.

Rounding the corner at Barton I can see the swing Aqueduct ahead and it's open. I used to visit this place as a small boy on a Sunday afternoon and wait to watch the giant Manchester Liners gently steam up the ship canal towards Manchester Docks. At the entrance to the aqueduct is a viewing platform that overlooks the road bridge, the ship canal and the Bridgewater canal. Nearly 50 years on and I am about to achieve a life long ambition of crossing over the aqueduct.



Barton swing Aqueduct from the M/C Ship canal

This magnificent feat of engineering was opened in 1893 to replace Brindley's 1761 stone aqueduct, crossing what was at that time the Mersey and Irwell Navigation. The bridge swings fully loaded with water 90 degrees to allow shipping into and out of Manchester/Salford Docks.

The Manchester Ship canal, itself a waterway wonder, opened in 1894 and allowed ships of

up to 400 tons to reach close to the centre of Manchester.



View off the Aqueduct towards M60

After crossing the bridge I headed into Trafford Park which on a pleasant Sunday morning was very peaceful. No anglers in sight. Soon it was time to make my way back again to Worsley in time for lunch. I was intending to travel another mile to the

junction where the canal splits with one junction ending up at Cornbrook in the city centre and the other going to Preston Brook where it forms part of the Cheshire ring. But the hunger pangs kicked in and I'd done enough for one day.

Now I know to a lot of paddlers out there think that canals are boring, no thrills etc. But the peace and quiet of an early Sunday morning trip steeped in history and nostalgia is something that every now & then, is just the ticket.

During my few hours on the canal several people stopped me and asked about the kayak and what's it like to paddle. Perhaps the canals are having a renaissance after all.

David Roughley

Committee Crisis?

This year two of the club's three officials will be stepping down from their roles: I am resigning from the role of Secretary and John Kington is resigning from the role of Treasurer.

While we will both stay on the committee (and I will carry on editing the newsletter), we urgently need people to fill in these roles. In addition, we are always on the lookout for new committee members to spread the workload.

The Secretary is the 'public facing' member of the committee: he/she handles enquiries from potential new members and letters from the public, the BCU and other organisations, and also takes minutes at committee meetings.

The Treasurer looks after the club's money (not under the mattress, we do have a bank account!) – keeping track of incoming and outgoing money and balancing the books at the end of the year.

Being a member of the committee is not an onerous task. The committee meets every two months for approximately 2 hours at the Hand & Dagger and discusses and plans the clubs activities. Committee members may also be asked to take on jobs which can be sorted out between one meeting and the next.

None of these jobs are very difficult or time consuming, and since we are all strongly opposed to un-necessary work we will not ask for jobs to be done unless they are really important!

So, if you have a bit of time to spare and want to help out with the running of the club, or you want to have more of a say in what the club does, please get in touch with me before the end of the year to stand for election as an official or to the committee!

Martin Stockdale

Interclubs



and End of Season International Race

The back end of the season has been an exciting time.

The Interclubs competition was great! Above is the winning Ribble and Ormskirk team. We won the Joint Club's Trophy, given to the highest placed joint team. Plus we came 4th overall out of 23 teams, beating some of the large slalom clubs such as Manchester and Shepperton.



Ladies team

It really was a team effort, but special congratulations to the Ladies and Mens teams who came 5th and 6th respectively.



Jonathan chases Tim in the Men's event



Tony looking good in a C1

Of course we now have our honour to defend. So look out for requests for volunteers for next years team, starting now! Email me if you are interested in joining the fun, we need all level of slalom paddlers, from beginners to Div 1/Prem.

At the end of season, it was close at the top! And, we have paddlers right up there in Division One, which currently has over 190 paddlers in the men's division and 70+ in the ladies. Richard has improved from last season's result of 12th, and is 4th in the table. Jacquelyn has been promoted from Division 2 to be 5th in the Division One Ladies. Jonathan has pushed ahead in K1 and C1, moving from Division 2 in both disciplines to Division One, ending 7th in C1 and 55th in K1.



Mick at Lllangollen

Mick has unfortunately been plagued with injury and not paddled as many races as he would have liked this year, but finished a respectable 36th - we look forward to a strong come back next season.



Alex at Llangollen

Our Prem paddlers have found life is hard in the top flight! However both Alex and Tim have enjoyed the season and look forward to pushing ahead further next year. Alex finished 47th and Tim 62nd.

All our paddlers in Division One and Prem realise training is important and can put in anything from one/two training sessions a week all the way up to four plus extra gym sessions.



Jonathan on the Falls

Jonathan has had a rewarding year training with the World Class Development squad. He had an excellent 4 days coaching in his C1 in the summer from a top Polish C2 world medal winner, and spent October half term once again training with World Class in his C1. He has just had confirmation of his place on the Olympic World Class Junior Development Squad for the forthcoming year.

He also waits to hear officially that he has made the J14 England Pan Celtic team; after coming 2nd in his age group at the first two selection races at the Washburn and HPP and 1st at Langollen Town Falls, he will be part of a three boat team of paddlers at Grandtully, HPP and the Tryweryn next year.



Jacquelyn on the drop at Town Falls

Richard, Alex, Jonathan and Jacquelyn took part in the final race of the season on Oct 28/29th, it was an International Race at Llangollen Town Falls. All paddled well, but Jacquelyn excelled, making the cut at the end

of the first day and reaching the semi finals, awaiting published results, but we think she finished 21st, beating several Prem ladies - quite an achievement.

There was a big thanks to Ken from Ormskirk scouts, as on the first run of the first day Jacquelyn hit a rock and broke the nose of her boat, water flooded in and she finished the first run with her boat half submerged! Ken got moving with quick drying resin and got her boat water tight to make the superb second run which took her in to the semis.

Mark Vaudrey in his come back made 101 in Div 2 - good luck to Mark next year. David and James Vaudrey are in Div 3, along with Allan Hacking. Joanne came to Llandysul with us and secured points in Div 2, come on Steph, we just need you to get to a ranking race and make Div 3!

Winter training is here again. The longer drive to HPP and Tryweryn at weekends or getting on early on a Sunday at Halton Rapids looms. Jacquelyn and Jonathan go to Manchester for their Thursday session with the floodlights. Quite a few paddlers take up Ken's offer of training with some lighting at Parker's Gravel Pit; ongoing thanks to him for providing this help.



Richard at Town Falls

Susan Shaw

The North West Paddle Festival

Three Ribble members attended the Saturday session of the Paddle Festival held in October at Burrs: Adam Fairer, Grant Dillon & myself. The event was arranged by Salford University and Brookbank canoes but not really very well advertised –as you can see by the Ribble member turnout.

On arrival at Burrs the Irwell was noted to be at a 'normal level' for this time of year after a bit of recent rain, which boded well for a good day's paddling for most levels of paddler. The car park was quite busy, mostly due to the excellent set-ups that Brookbanks, Pyranha, Mad Yaker and other exhibitors had put on, but sadly for them and joyously for us there weren't many paddlers. This meant that people demoing boats could have them all day if they wished.

Once Adam was forcibly removed from a bacon butty we got changed and trudded up to the top of the Burrs section to get started. Adam and I didn't fancy going down the weir without warming up so acted as spectators (hecklers) whilst Grant prepared to do his thing down the weir, it went something like this. Nice seal launch, nifty warm up with edges, ends, squirts etc, crowd gathering, steady approach to the weir, fast paddle to the sill, dead stop and bow stall with 180degree turn to land backwards on the sill then a beautiful pivot to make it 360 degrees as he edged over the sill, paddle sticks between the weir and is ripped from his grasp, fits of laughter with Adam and myself hardly able to control our bladders. Grant to his credit did a nice landing at the weir foot and almost looked like he meant to do it, while the paddle was left sticking from the weir at 45degrees.

Exhibition two was obviously going to be a paddle rescue by Grant, this he did with a normal approach to the weir sill and a textbook slide down the weir and snatch and grab of the offending paddle as he slid past it, nice. Sadly the paddle was broken at the blade and this meant a hasty purchase of a new paddle from the Brookbank stall.

A great day of paddling fun was enjoyed by us all with the added benefit of making some new friends and Grant demoing the Project 52.

As the day came to a close one of the last paddlers we came across was 'Bronco Bill'; at least that's what his name should be. Laugh? I nearly wet myself. This guy hadn't been paddling for some years but was obviously up for it but struggling with his balance and co-ordination, but that wasn't going to stop him. Into the wave he went with arms flailing back and forth in the fastest movement I had ever seen in an attempt to keep his balance. His female partner, Adam and myself were beside ourselves with laughter and 'Bill' thought it was funny too after he came off the wave. Just as we regained our composure on he went again, fantastic and all credit to you. It was like watching a real life cartoon where the characters arms move so fast they go blurred and rodeo event rolled into one.

The day was nicely rounded off with some kayaking talks – for those who wanted them – and a nice £3 a head bbq and friendly chit chat until home time. It's highly likely according to Brookbank that this will become an annual event so remember to watch out for it next year. One disappointing note was that Grant's newly purchased Seven2 paddle was taking water into the blade and had to be

returned to Brookbank and another new paddle obtained [*sadly, not the first time I've heard of problems with these paddles – Ed*].

As a follow up Grant and I went to Burrs the following week with Jo 'The Map' Hacking. We took a detour to collect Jo from her home in Darwen only to get lost at the end of her street and enjoy an extended drive through the rolling East Lancs moors, very nice.

Occasionally we came across places the 'The Map' knew of; Tottington.. "we go through here" 'The Map' would say, "great, which way then,"... "I don't know, I'm always texting!" Directions off a very nice police lady helped save us from our third circuit of Bury; great paddlers Grant & Jo are, but navigators they are not.

The river was a touch higher than our last visit (when we eventually found our way there) and the paddling good despite some rain. Jo was trying out her new Pyranha S6X which she had won at the GB trials and apart from some early nerves looked comfortable in it and quickly got used to it. Let me now warn

all sensible paddlers to avoid the likes of Grant and Jo, lest they be encouraged – as I was - to try 'stern squirts'. The Irwell was one of my very few non-swimming rivers until after much cajoling by 'paddle boy' and 'map girl' I attempted a 'stern squirt'. Up to this point I thought a 'stern squirt' was something you got after a trip to Burrs and not a kayaking move undertaken there. After a rescue I then had another swim under the bridge after a bit more 'advice' which I must say was given in good faith and used in the wrong manner.

Overall a nice couple of trips to Burrs which were very welcome after my lack of recent paddling and a definite event to add to next year's calendar.

PS we found our way home and even managed to get 'The Map' back safely.

L. Austin-Berry
(The Stig)

Pyranha Spanish Fly Strap Conversion

I've decided to write this article, as I couldn't find any other information about such a project. This is the one and only strap conversion I have ever attempted and I'm really pleased with the results. Paddling is more secure and rolling is far easier. I owe a lot to the article on outfitting by Sammer Elias at http://www.open-canoede/open/canoes/fitting/fitting_guide.html, and the Wavesport Z conversion project by [Jamie Dors](#) at Playak. For supplies I thoroughly recommend [Pennine Outdoor](#) for the webbing, and [ACE Supplies](#) for the cam buckles, tri-glides and D-rings. ACE Supplies were kind enough to send the parts as samples rather than full price. The nuts and bolts came from the local DIY shop. If you have any

questions I can't profess to be an expert but will try and help if you if you get in touch.

I decided to convert the boat to straps as I was struggling to keep my bum on the saddle rolling with the thigh hook system-I just couldn't get it tight enough and when I did it lasted for a session before the foam started floating away. The other consideration was a safety one. With the thigh hooks there is no quick release and it's near impossible to get your legs free when pushed against the back deck.

I am about 5'9 with size 8 (UK) feet. My saddle is about 8 inches high and runs from thwart to thwart. At three points about 2

inches from the base of the saddle I have pushed 1.5 inch diameter plastic pipe through to transfer water from one side to the other.

The straps are self-equalising. One strap runs from the hull about 2 inches in from the end of my knee and vertically from the start of the tumblehome. It should probably be a bit lower so it is level with where the strap crosses my knee but I was worried about the bolt catching on rocks and the hull leaking (as this would be around the water line of the boat). The strap is then passed through a D-ring secured to the saddle and finished with a cam buckle secured with a tri-glide. The strap is passed through the tri-glide as you would a climbing harness to prevent slipping. The other strap is fixed on the hull level with my hips and then is fed into the cam buckle. This strap is fixed vertically in line with where it crosses my thigh and in line with my hips. Hopefully the photos make this a bit clearer. Everything was carefully marked out with tape before I started and I checked and double-checked that I would be able to exit without having to undo the straps.



To business! After stripping down the boat I cut down an aluminium paddle shaft to the same length as the saddle. I was going to use plastic pipe or conduit but then remembered my trusty but broken Shlegel Extreme was languishing in the shed. I cut a channel along the centre of the underside of the saddle so that the shaft would fit flush in it. The easiest way seems to be to start one end with a craft knife and then use the shaft itself as a gouge to remove the foam. I made a loop from 50mm webbing with the two D-rings on, which I bolted to the shaft.



That done I steadied myself for the next stage, the drilling. To make this a bit easier I designed a template on Word. Basically a rectangle the same width as the strap with where to drill marked on. I taped this to the hull and with a deep breath let rip. It took a bit to cut access holes in the foam sidewall. The straps were cut to length with a hot knife and boltholes made in them using a red-hot bradde. Once the straps were bolted on it was a case of adjusting the buckles so they lay nicely on my legs and fitting toggles to the cam levers.





The last thing I did was to remove the saddle and glue a strip of sleeping mat along the bottom covering the shaft assembly. This levelled the saddle, fixed it against the thwart and will hopefully stop the hull wearing along the line of the shaft.

Tony Marsh

Canoeing Prejudices

What is a proper 'canoe'? Maybe it depends on what one first paddled and what equipment went with it – a generation thing. I think what I first paddled was really a kayak, certainly my college club was a 'kayak club' – I think we had three KW7's. So why do we call it canoeing? I am still a bit doubtful whether those new-fangled fibre-glass things are real canoes (I call them all canoes - not logical). Less of rambling and down to facts.

A proper canoe is made of wood and canvas, or maybe super-modern PVC. It has a proper cockpit that you can sit in without contortion. To make it do a telemark turn you have to hook one knee under the cockpit rim (plywood) and heave like mad. You could, of course, have a Canadian canoe, those have to have the ends higher than the middle and they are kind of open, but are not proper canoes – are they? – for a start, they only give you half a paddle.

For your kit you wear a proper lifejacket, BCU approved – with a tube to blow it up, and your paddle has a proper loom (which seems to have been misnamed 'shaft' these days) made of aluminium, possibly covered with PVC in the luxury model. The blades are marine ply with split brush-staves down the middle. They are, of course, flat and set at a regulation 90 degrees. One wears swimming trunks under khaki shorts, pumps on the feet and a lightweight waterproof anorak, or cagoule (this means it has a hood – most

modern manufacturers keep missing it out of their designs). Some very cold people wear 'wet' suits, but I could never take to all that talcum powder for getting them on. Someone should invent a sort of lining to the rubber.

Proper slalom is like we had at, for example, Trevor Rocks or Bevere, or Marsh Lock. There you had to get the whole of the boat – proper length it was too – through the whole of the gate, or it was 10 seconds added for each inside touch, 20 seconds for an outside touch and 100 seconds if you missed a gate, and the poles were only an inch above the water; proper technical stuff it was; a clear round and you had a chance of winning. More recently I hear that various forms of cheating have been devised, like boats that dip under the poles, gates that you can go through in any direction and judges that only give 2 seconds added when a gate is clobbered.

Then there are these boats with the ends chopped off, no wonder they keep tipping end over end - and they are made of plastic!! For a small fee I could lay-up some glass fibre ends to complete such a craft, just apply to the editor.

Maybe I need an attitude check?

***Iam Knot-Byassed
(Not the Stig!)***



Would you like to learn to canoe?

Ribble Canoe Club is running beginners' courses in January and March 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 three outdoor sessions, at the end of which students will be able to take (and hopefully pass) the BCU 1 star award! No previous experience is necessary.

The pool sessions will take place on Friday nights 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! (Flip-flops or water shoes and an old t-shirt would also be a good idea.)

The outdoor sessions will take place on Saturdays at one or more locations near Preston, details will be confirmed on the course. Again, the club will provide all the equipment, but 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.

The course dates are as follows:

January course

Date	Location	Time
Jan 12 th	Pool	7:45pm – 10pm
Jan 19 th	Pool	8:45pm – 10pm
Jan 20 th	Outdoor	TBC
Jan 26 th	Pool	8:45pm – 10pm
Jan 27 th	Outdoor	TBC
Feb 3 rd	Outdoor	TBC

March course

Date	Location	Time
Mar 2 nd	Pool	7:45pm – 10pm
Mar 9 th	Pool	8:45pm – 10pm
Mar 10 th	Outdoor	TBC
Mar 16 th	Pool	8:45pm – 10pm
Mar 17 th	Outdoor	TBC
Mar 24 th	Outdoor	TBC

The course will cost £30 per person, which includes the cost of the instruction and pool hire. In addition you will need to be a member of Ribble Canoe Club, maximum cost £16 per person.

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

Tom Byrne

I WANT TO BE...



Many of you will recall, earlier this year, watching a TV programme called 'Locks and Quays' about local canals, fronted by Granada weatherman Fred Talbot. Well, a few months ago the producer of the programme got in touch with the club with a view to discovering what it is many of us like about canals. This being Flat Water territory Tom Byrne rapidly became the liaison person with the television company. Thus it was, one dull August Sunday morning, 23 wannabes and their kayaks turned up at Tewitfield to be filmed.

Disappointingly, there wasn't a large OB van parked in the car park, no chunky wires trailing all over the place, no huge lighting rig and nobody rushing round doing make-up. There was just one smallish looking camera (with its cameraman) and a chap with a big fluffy microphone.

Tom is almost certain to be the star of our slot, his TV fame is assured having been interviewed both in and out of his boat – and

for those who care about these things, having got in a little dig about river access. It might be a good idea to draw a veil over the coaching he was persuaded to do.



The filming includes, dropping Keith's boat as it was unloaded from his roof rack, Jo and Steph making a splash as they entered the water and all of us rafting up while some of the youngsters ran across the tops of the boats. They all fell in by the way.



Several Club members were interviewed in the course of proceedings, myself included. I sincerely hope they don't show any of my gabblings, once that fluffy mike was thrust in my face I was unable to string a coherent sentence together. Our glorious Chairman, on the other hand, had a long chat and a rather fine line in headgear.



Most of the time we just followed orders such as 'Paddle up to the next bridge then stop' or 'Go as far as the third narrow boat' and somewhat discouragingly 'Paddle round the next bend until we can't see you then wait there until we tell you to come back'. This last instruction was so that Tom could be wired up and left to do his coaching slot in peace.

There was an awful lot of splashing and bumping and bashing as we paddled up and down, most of the regular Flat Water folk had touring boats which take a bit of turning on a narrow canal and at times we sounded like a lot of heavyweight Tupperware come loose in the dishwasher.



Thoughtfully, Clive and Janet had bought their double kayak so the cameraman was encouraged to climb in the front to do a bit of filming, I'm not sure he could breathe easily in Janet's spraydeck and buoyancy aid but he had a go. Clive did pretty well to keep the boat upright as the weight of the camera caused it to list alarmingly, the knowledge that the camera was worth over £20K provided some incentive not to roll.



Luckily the camera had been turned off by the time we were due to leave our boats. Tewitfield was a bit congested with narrow boats so space was at a premium, also the water was a bit lower than usual, as a result of which some of the exits were not exactly textbook.

In the end, what turned out to be about three hours of filming will be reduced to four minutes of TV time. We will form just a small part of a new series about, I believe, the Rochdale Canal, which is to be aired (technical word there) on Thursday evenings in January. We have been promised we'll be told when so keep an eye on the web site.

Janet Porter

A Day for the Tay?



Paddlers; John & Tom Fuller, Pete Dennett, Mark & Oliver Bamber.

I had been to church and was waiting for the rest to come down. They came down en masse, which I thought was a little disrespectful to be honest and then to my complete disbelief Oliver stopped dead and, to his justice, performed a perfect pirouette. The congregation at that time was limited to a dozen or so sheep and 4 open canoeists, who had taken the chicken route river right anyway. The sheep's protestation was limited to the odd bleat while the colour visibly drained from the open paddlers faces even from this distance. It became clear that they were novices at a later stage in the river. Looks like we got away with that then.

For his insolence some greater being, or probably the force of water, rewarded Oli with a bouncy, wet ride down the remaining water until I could bring both him and his boat to a halt some 200 metres down stream. Quite why this section is called Church Hole I'm not too sure, I didn't see a church so I have come to the conclusion it is the

blaspheming that is whispered and probably sometimes shouted when you see the hole for the first time. It is concealed until you are right on top of it and unless you can put some pretty ferocious back paddling in you are committed to run it, which isn't that bad, he says having survived it, providing you paddle off and through it like the Host of Hades is upon you and your soul will be damned forever if they catch you.

The hole in question is about ¼ mile upstream from the Grandtully rapids at... Grandtully funnily enough. The rain had rained and rained and rained. Whoopee I hear you all say, we saw the rapids the previous day and decided to can it, with two 11 year olds it wouldn't have been funny, the Tay was up and over the fields further south and was extremely high at Dunkeld where the central island simply didn't exist.

Just before Grandtully I pulled up behind a convenient rock to see Oli down as I had a pretty good feeling he wasn't really up for this. It looked big, it looked very big and I was at least 50 metres away. John F pulled a brilliant launch from a rock shelf, narrowly

missing a large central rock which from his angle of approach wasn't visible, another 2.54cm and it wouldn't have looked quite so much action man but mashed up man.



It all looked like jolly good fun, this being confirmed by Pete who had dropped off a rock and plunged into a hole where he popped up without any ill effects except a couple of mouthfuls of water whilst trying to exhale whoops of delight. Oli bimbled his way down to meet up with the others. I had a bit of a dilemma; should I drop off the rock into a small channel where water was rushing in from three directions and narrowly missing a rock?, Did I want a pin with everybody waiting at the bottom for me? Eerrmmm, no thanks. Option two it was, which was bouncy but not terribly exciting. In true comradeship I was rewarded for my sensible approach with boo's and name calling along the lines of mice and men (should remember that, might come in handy for a book title someday).



Well that's it we thought, a long slog down to Dunkeld. Setting off first I dismissed the sound of pounding water as the water we had been through. Not the case, shortly after the

bridge is a river wide drop and stopper. Perhaps this should be called Church Stopper using the logic of blasphemy and no apparent church in the vicinity. John F muttered something as he saw it and the look on his face seemed to suggest he had seen something, if not venerably holy then certainly awesome in its true majestic splendour.

Do try the Tay from Kenmore to Dunkeld, it isn't for whitewater enthusiasts except for Grandtully but the scenery is quite stunning. Don't try Kenmore - Dunkeld in a day, it's a 17 mile slog which turns into porridge at the confluence of the Tummell.

Day 2 - Stanley

Do try this section, it isn't long and has water to suit all abilities. We met up with some local paddlers who ran me back to the egress in a car to save me running back to the ingress on legs. Top chap, he'll never know he got a mention in a paddling rag. We played for a good while, two swims to report from yours truly, "you're not trying hard enough if you're not swimming" was my rather pathetic excuse for not rolling. Neal E There, you and me together buddy.



The water was still big, the sun was shining and we had a couple of warnings about the weir, "it's a grim, nasty piece of work" (in a Scottish accent, no go back and do it again, properly. The accent that is, not the weir), "watch for the stopper" etc, etc. Pathetic, if there was a damp squib of the trip this was it. I had butterflies in my stomach as we

approached it, a massive build up and there it was. What a bag of pants. Now I have put this down to a few things, firstly I love the Crake, Wenning and Burrs (but only the weir part, paddling in sewage isn't my bag) 'cos of those big, angled weirs and secondly, and probably more likely, because the local paddlers didn't know our ability and wanted to play up the weir so we did it sensibly.

The section following that is an almost constant roller coaster of big bouncy waves where you ride to the top of one and crash down and through the next one, brilliant fun. This is topped off with a big surf wave at the egress but by that time we were all so shredded we didn't have the strength to get on it, and as we had an audience I didn't fancy yet another swim.

Mark Bamber

New, improved Beginners' courses

The committee has been discussing ways in which we can improve the training courses which the club runs, to give a more natural progression and help members to gain skills more quickly.

The changes will have a number of effects, especially on the summer courses, but for now we are starting by introducing changes to the beginners' course.

With effect from the next course (in January), the beginners course will include 3 pool sessions and 3 outdoor sessions, at the end of which will be an assessment for the BCU 1 star award. We hope that this longer beginners' course will give people more confidence to get out on the water, and that gaining the 1 star award will be lasting evidence of the skills they have developed.

PS Here's another piccy, it has a loose connection with paddling but well worth an inclusion. Oliver seems to be preventing a gaseous explosion within his paddling kit whilst Tom controls his arms with invisible strings. Puppeteering Paddlers, umm, interesting concept.



Clearly these changes will have an impact on the club's coaches, since their help will be needed not only in the pool on Fridays but on the outdoor sessions on Saturdays. I hope that all our coaches will understand the benefits of this change and will give it their support.

One of the changes we are planning for the summer course is that we will no longer provide 1 star training on the summer course, concentrating instead on 2 and 3 star. All students on the 2 star course will have to already have 1 star (or equivalent skills).

This may impact the plans of some of our affiliated Scout and Youth groups, and I would encourage the leaders of those groups to consider the effect on them and contact me if they want more details.

Martin Stockdale

Chairman's Chat

Will this pleasure never end? I'm at it again - congratulating Club Members; mainly slomers this time. The end of season positions are published in the competition report elsewhere in this enviable organ, and the Olympic Development Programme for 2006/7 is at www.canoeslalom.co.uk/2006-7_devt_athletes.pdf. Well done to all those who have climbed the slalom ladder this year (ladder? No wonder I never got far in slalom) and particular congratulations to Jonathan Shaw who figures in both.

I was at Halton on the first Sunday in November and what a pleasure to be back there again (You see I do get on the water occasionally). There were about 20 Ribblers on the water that day, including 5 new or fairly new to moving water - so a few swims inevitably. For those booked on the 3 weeks Moving Water course starting this month, the water's warm and the rocks are soft. But seriously you'll really enjoy it and come on in leaps and bounds (as it were).

Terry Maddock
chairman@ribblecanoecclub.co.uk

Beginners' Course

15th, 22nd and 29th September

The beginners' course in September came to an end after three very successful pool sessions and was then followed up with two further sessions on the canal at the Hand and Dagger in relatively pleasant weather. I think all attending the course thoroughly enjoyed themselves and I hope we'll see them over the winter months up at Halton or on a Wednesday night at the Hand and Dagger pub or maybe even back at the pool on Friday nights.

So without further ado please welcome David Wall, Rebecca & Andy Iddon, Tom Brown, Simon Wills, Maria Horner, Eddie & Jamie

Robinson, David, Alison, Peter & Joseph Nelson, Mark & Holly Brynes, George Smith and Emma Ashton.

This course could not have gone ahead without a few willing individuals from the club who give up their time to help out. Thanks must go to John Kington, Mark Green, Norman Green, Daniel Stockdale, Steve Swarbrick, Andy Rushton, Clive Robinson, Albert Risely, Richard Collins, Francis Twizzell and Terry Maddock as well as all the pool supervisors who ensured our safety whilst we were in the pool.

Iain Robinson

For Sale

Perception Carolina 14'8"

Lendal Paddle, Spraydeck,
Buoyancy aid, Thigh Braces, Buoyancy in
boat, Trolley. Rudder parts, not fitted.
Boat is stored at AQUATIC in Bowness.

REDUCED - £380 ono

Ron Houston

General purpose/sea kayak paddle

Mitchell Blades. Split carbon fibre Lendal
shaft. Glass fibre blades. Very light. 218cm
long, Right hand with 45 degree feather.
Hardly been used, only v slight scratches.

£100 or vno

Thomas

Ribble CC Library

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

Technique:

BCU Handbook

Franco Ferrero

The Practical Guide to Kayaking

Bill Mattos, Andy Middleton

Canoeing & Kayaking

Marcus Bailie

Kayak

William (not Bill) Nealy

Bombproof Roll and Beyond!

Paul Dutky

Eskimo Rolling for Survival

Derek Hutchinson.

White Water Safety & Rescue

2nd Edition, Franco Ferrero

Weir Wisdom Rapids

Tim Parkes

Canoe & Kayak Games

Dave Ruse/Loel Collins

The Playboater's Handbook

Ken Whiting

Complete Book of Sea Kayaking

Derek C. Hutchinson

Sea Kayak Navigation

Franco Ferrero

Path of the Paddle

Bill Mason, Paul Mason

Canoeing

Laurie Gullion

Open Canoe Technique

Nigel Foster

Anglesey Sea Paddling

Rowing it Alone

Debra Veal

The Handbook of Survival at Sea

Chris Beeson

BCU Coaching Handbook

British Canoe Union

Sea Safety: The Complete Guide

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

Canal Companion: Cheshire Ring

J.M. Pearson and Son Ltd.

General:

The Rough Guide to Weather

Robert Henson

The Liquid Locomotive

John Long (ed)

Many Rivers to Run

Dave Manby

Norwegian rivers

Canoe Focus

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 Dunnnett

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

Westgarth.TV

Donated by Iain Robinson

DVDs:

Tony Morgan in the Grand Canyon

LVM Lunch Video Magazine

Ribble Newsletters (CD)

Doubleyouess

Without a Paddle (13)

Whitewater Kayaking

The Cockleshell Heroes (U)

Mags Brayfield in Nepal

EJ's Advanced Playboating

The Chaos Theory

Jackson Kayak Promo

It's Different Every Time

Norman Green

EJ's Playboating Basics

Eric Jackson and Chris Emerick

Wavesport: Sessions

Fort William 2005/06 Trip

Tom Kington

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. All sessions are Friday 9:00pm – 10:00pm.

Date	Session	Contact	Supervisor	Committee
Nov 24 th	Rolling Course	Bob Smith	John Kington	Tim Langridge
Dec 1 st	Rolling Course	Bob Smith	Clive Robinson	Brian Woodhouse
Dec 8 th	Slalom Training	Susan Shaw	Grahame Coles	Susan Shaw
Dec 15 th	Open	N/A	Allan Hacking	Martin Stockdale
Dec 22 nd	Open	N/A	Mark Loftus	Tom Kington
Dec 29 th	No Session			
Jan 5 th	Open	N/A	Mark Green	Susan Shaw
Jan 12 th	Beginners	Tom Byrne	John Kington	Peter Jones
Jan 19 th	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Clive Robinson	John Kington
Jan 26 th	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Grahame Coles	Tim Langridge
Feb 2 nd	Rolling	Bob Smith	Allan Hacking	Brian Woodhouse
Feb 9 th	Rolling	Bob Smith	Mark Loftus	Martin Stockdale
Feb 16 th	Open (Half Term)	N/A	Mark Green	Mark Loftus
Feb 23 rd	Rolling	Bob Smith	John Kington	Clive Robinson
Mar 2 nd	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Clive Robinson	Susan Shaw
Mar 9 th	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Grahame Coles	Peter Jones
Mar 16 th	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Allan Hacking	Tim Langridge
Mar 23 rd	Open	N/A	Mark Loftus	Brian Woodhouse
Mar 30 th	Open	N/A	Mark Green	Martin Stockdale
Apr 6 th	No session (Easter)			

Prices:

Beginners Course £30, Rolling Course £15 (both plus club membership). All other sessions £3. Please book in advance for the Beginners and Rolling Courses by phoning the named contact.

Editor's bit

Pseud's Corner

You may have noticed a lot of pseudonyms appearing on articles recently.

This was started by our resident 'Stig', who has appeared under a number of names including S. Wimmer, N.E. Wayup, and Neal E. There.

Other people are doing the same now, and it's getting rather confusing for me as editor, so I'm going to apply a little editorial control here: I will carry on publishing The Stig's articles under pseudonyms (just in case anybody hasn't guessed who he is) but in

future I will be crediting all other articles with the writer's name.

Dates and deadlines

The next committee meeting will be on January 9th at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on January 23rd. All submissions to me by Saturday January 20th at the latest please.

Martin Stockdale
secretary@ribblecanoecub.co.uk



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

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**

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 listed for information only.

River information:

Burrs 0161 764 9649

www.burrs.org.uk

Canolfan Tryweryn 01678 520826

www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk

Tees Barrage 01642 678000

www.4seasons.co.uk

Washburn/Wharfe 0845 833 8654

<http://www.yorcie.org.uk/>

Trips / Events

November

25/26 Tees Barrage

26 Intro to Moving Water
R Lune
Halton, Lancaster
Allan Hacking

December

3 Intro to Moving Water
R Lune
Halton, Lancaster
Allan Hacking

9 *Christmas Dinner/Disco*
New Drop Inn
Ribchester
Debbie Dowe

10 *Recover from above*
quiet room
or roadside verge

9/10 Tees Barrage

17 White Water
R Kent
Kendal to A590
Steve Swarbrick

17 Flat Water Trip
Leeds Liverpool Canal
Tom Byrne

24 Tees Barrage
Wot, on Christmas Eve?

31 White Water
R Crake
Brown Howe to Greenodd
Allan Hacking

January

7 Beginners' Trip
R Lune
Halton, Lancaster
Terry Maddock

7 Tees Barrage

14 White Water
R Greta
Threlkeld Bridge to Keswick
Andy Rushton

21 Flat Water Trip
Lancaster Canal
Tom Byrne

27 Tees Barrage

28 Moving & White Water
R Lune
Halton, Lancaster
Clive Robinson

February

4 Beginners' Trip
R Ribble
Clitheroe to Ribchester
Terry Maddock

10/11 Tees Barrage

11 White Water
R Kent
Kendal to A590
To Be Arranged

18 Flat Water Trip
Rufford Canal
Tom Byrne

22 *Annual General Meeting*
Fulwood and Broughton
Cricket Club 7.30pm
Subsidised hot pot!!! Yum yum.

24/25 Tees Barrage

25 White Water
R Crake
Brown Howe to Greenodd
John Kington