

# TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



March/April 2013

## *First Impressions*

*(of a new club member)*

My name is Dave Whiteside and I am a new member. I joined towards the end of January this year and I thought I would say a few words about my experience with the club so far.

Right from the off when I initially contacted the club by email asking for details, I got a response later that day from Terry Maddock and I was made to feel very welcome to come down one Tuesday to meet some of the existing club members. I was given ample information and I could tell right from the off this club was very friendly, and I was right.

When I came down, not knowing anyone at all, it was a little daunting as it would be for anyone, but I was soon chatting to various members and made to feel extremely welcome. In particular, I would like to say a big thank you to Terry and Alan for making me feel welcome on that first night down. I had a good chat with both of you guys.

Since this initial meet, I have attended a pool session which was taken by Roy, who again, took time to make myself and other new members feel welcome and also down at the pub the following Tuesday, I expressed my interest in White Water kayaking, and we had a good chat on how I am best to approach things and what trips to look out for in the future.

I have since attended the beginner's trip that ran in February, and again, it was a great turn out and all the members that attended were very friendly. It really is a good club I have found. This trip wasn't a "coaching trip", it was more of a case of just get in the kayaks and have a paddle, yet bearing this in mind, Will Body and his wife Rachel gave loads of tips and advice throughout the trip, which I found encouraging... especially as I couldn't stop my boat from spinning round in circles and I could feel myself getting really wound up.. All good fun though!

I haven't been down since, not because I have been put off, but due to other commitments and my ski trip coming up, but hopefully I will be back showing my face in the Hand and Dagger towards the end of March, and get myself booked onto a few more trips.

All in all, a great friendly club and I would recommend it to anyone interested in kayaking or canoeing.

***Dave Whiteside***

# ***Ribble Canoe Club***

## ***Welfare Officer***



My name is Suzanne Thomas, I am writing to introduce myself, to those of you who don't know me, as Ribble club welfare officer. I have kayaked on and off since I was a teenager and have been a club member since 2006. My main interests are touring and sea. I have benefited greatly from the help and coaching I have received and feel this is my opportunity to give something back to our club.

My role is to act as a source of advice on safeguarding and protecting children and vulnerable adults, promoting good practice and co-ordinating/reporting any issues or concerns raised and ensuring advice from British Canoe Union (BCU) is subsequently followed. If I don't know the answer to your questions I'll find out and get back to you. I will also arrange DBS (formerly CRB) checks as required.

If anyone has any concerns, or feels that further information is needed please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope that everyone will find me approachable and I will do my best to deal with all concerns and enquiries with empathy and as efficiently as possible.

My contact details are on the web site and on the contact page at the end of the newsletter

***Suzanne Thomas***

# Top Tips

**Mark Dillon**

- Spray deck grab loops can be entrapment hazards. Either cut them so they are open ended, or tape the loop so it is closed up. Also some decks have a knee strap, I think it's best to remove these as they don't usually work anyway, try it and if it doesn't then remove it.
- Tie a length of webbing strap or throw-line rope to your kayaks rear grab handle. Make it a single length of about 3 feet so that when tied a loose single length of webbing trails by 2 feet. This is handy for boat rescues and fastening the boat to trees if you need to get out of it. Important, use only a single length i.e. don't make a loop which could get caught up. Finally, **DO NOT attach** a rescue tape to the front of the kayak as you may mix it up with the spray deck grab loop.
- Put some buoyancy in the front of your kayak, especially important if you swim/are a beginner. If you swim the nose of your boat will fill with water and sink whilst the back with its air bags will rise up, so that your boat will go down a rapid nose first and pointing down and hitting every rock, and so denting it. Also with nose buoyancy your boat will lay flatter when being recovered and so be easier to flip over and also drain better and be lighter for rescuers. Wine bags are the best buoyancy bags for your kayak nose. They stay inflated for years, are free and the wine can be used for medicinal purposes. If you have trouble getting rid of the wines easily get in touch with me. I also have a steady supply of wine bags and can let you have some if you can't get your own
- Put a wine cork in your boats kit, it can be used as an impromptu drain plug should you lose yours.
- Always carry some good quality electrical insulation tape. You can use it for strapping wounds, covering blisters, taping your cork to make it a snug fit in your drain bung hole.
- Always carry an easy open bladed knife or fixed blade sheath knife with you, fasten it on a leash so you don't lose it, but make sure the leash is a weak one so it is not an entrapment hazard.
- Always carry a phone when paddling. Don't leave it to someone else.
- Always thank the coaches and guides, committee, helpers, shuttles and anyone else profusely for giving up their time to make sure you enjoy yourself. Buy them an occasional drink and shake their hand as well as helping them carry gear.

**Mark Dillon**

# ***Ribble Life Project***

***Norman Green***



Last year Pat & I were asked if we would attend a meeting held at the Brockholes, as Canoe England representatives. Not having much on that day and having been promised free lunch we readily accepted. The event was the inaugural meeting of the Ribble Life Project; for details see the website at <http://www.ribbonlife.org>



In the past we have attended similar kinds of meetings, really just to fly the flag for our sport and to find out what the Anglers were saying about us this time. The free food was also a strong incentive in my case. As the meeting progressed it became clear that this was to be a bit different and we would have to work for our lunch (So it is true what they say about “no such thing as a free lunch”).

There were representatives there from an enormously diverse group of people from Environment Agency to Burnley Football Club. As always there were Angling groups who formed the main opposition (to everything proposed usually).

To explain what the project is all about, here is a plagiarised piece of text from the website;

*Ribble Life is a DEFRA funded pilot scheme aimed at exploring better ways to engage with people and organisations to help improve the water environment at a local catchment level. It is part of a new catchment-based approach to river basin management to help deliver the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).*

*The Ribble Rivers Trust is working in partnership with the Environment Agency to support the delivery of a holistic approach to catchment management, including the sustainable use of the catchment's rivers, as well as the habitats and species they support.*

*The high quality of the Ribble catchment's water resources gives it great value – as a habitat for wildlife, for drinking water, as a recreational environment, as a basis for tourism and salmon fishing, and as a central asset underpinning the local economy.*

Ribble Life involves coordinating the efforts of local stakeholders (including local communities, farmers, public sector organisations and businesses) in the common aim of restoring habitat and water quality throughout the Ribble catchment.



Reading a bit between the lines, it also a way of fitting in to David Cameron's "Big Society Ethos" of getting things done without the government stumping up the money at a time, when as a country, we are heavily in debt and can't afford to do it any other way.

Having read all that, you can see that we fit into the bits about recreation and local communities.

The organisers proceeded to split us up into little groups and set us little tasks to gather information and probably to see who could read and write and who could be trusted. They probably also wanted to know who would be gullible enough to be talked into doing things for them.

We obviously passed the last bit because we ended up agreeing to compile a report about Canoeing on the Ribble and its tributaries. They also spotted my Achilles heel for free (allegedly) lunch and continued to invite us to further meetings. At the second one we were talked into trying to set up a Canoe Trail on the Ribble and at the last one we were asked to do a short talk about the report we had done earlier. This was accompanied by an attempted takeover by red faced Anglers with bulging eyes, but was swiftly put down by the organisers who then smoothed things over with generous helpings of Hot Pot followed by Fruit Pie & Cream.



After lunch we were treated to a trip around the Blackburn Sewerage Works. Ribble Life Organisers certainly know how to show us a good time.

So what have I learnt about Ribble Life? (Apart from no such thing as free lunch). Well its aims are very worthwhile and if its objectives can be realised we will all reap the benefits whether Paddlers or not. I have also realised that there are lots of advantages to be had from working with other stakeholders. In particular you can make alliances with them to help achieve your goals and you can influence their thinking about issues like paddling where they may be unaware of the problems we face. It is also a good way to find out about issues faced by others and to develop an understanding of why things are the way they are. It has certainly been a very good learning experience for me although one thing I didn't learn is why Anglers have the ability to upset and annoy almost everyone they meet even Non-paddlers.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist with any of the projects shown on the website, I would highly recommend it. If enough people show an interest I can approach Ribble Life Organisers and ask about doing a suitable project. Projects include doing surveys of local streams and watercourses and getting rid of Invasive Weeds to name just a couple. If you are a young person, volunteering would make it something to put on your CV and something to discuss at a job interview. It may also be a way to meet new friends.

We should also be aware that things are changing in the relationship we have with Anglers and Riparian Landowners who oppose our use of rivers. In the past they adopted the view that we had no legal right to be on rivers and voiced their views very forcefully. Recent research by Douglas Caffyn has undermined their legal position and they are less certain in their views (although they won't admit to this) so now they are opposing us on ecological grounds i.e. we cause environmental problems. To counter this argument we have to show that we understand these issues and pursue our sport in a responsible manner. Canoe England has produced an information leaflet called "**You your canoe and the environment**" which can be viewed on the main Canoe England website [www.canoe-england.org.uk](http://www.canoe-england.org.uk). This spells out our responsibilities whilst paddling.

If we as a club could muster up a team of volunteers to undertake a small project for Ribble Life, it would demonstrate our environmental credentials and further undermine our opponents. This could be something as simple as a "Litter Pick" on a stretch of a local stream or river. No offence intended to our open boating members, but open canoes make ideal "rubbish skips."

I also think that as paddlers (and walkers, climbers, cyclists etc.) we take a lot of enjoyment from our environment and perhaps we should also think of putting something back.

**Norman Green**

## ***2013 Membership Fees***

If you haven't renewed your membership fees this is a gentle reminder that they are now due. You should have received your renewal by email, if you haven't then let me know and I will email it to you. Please do not print a blank form off the website wait for your personalised renewal form to arrive. Print off the form, make any necessary amendments (including adding any family members) sign it and either send it with your cheque to the address at the bottom of the form or you can pay at the H&D on a Tuesday evening cash or cheque

If you are sending your form by post and you want a membership card then please enclose a SAE and I will send you your membership cards.

**Please Note:** 2013 Membership Fees should be paid no later than 30th April. If you joined the club after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 the fee you paid includes your 2013 fees.

# *Editors Bit*

I normally start this Editors Bit with thanks for all the contributors of articles, but this time I would like to start by thanking club members who proposed and voted for me as the recipient of the Philip Singleton Trophy. It was quite a surprise to say the least. In fact it was a complete shock because I thought I was viewed in a somewhat different light. This was brought home to me during an Après Paddle discussion at Halton. The film version of “Les Miserables” was being discussed, with some people expressing the view that it was a wonderful film with incredible performances and marvellous music etc. Some members of the audience were so impressed that they stood at the end of the film and actually applauded. It was also stated that there was one miserable old bloke who stood up and shuffled out of the Cinema saying “what a load of Cr\*\*\*”. At this one of the discussion group chirped up “Well it can’t have been Norman he was at the Ceilidh that night.”

So next year I propose we have an award for “Curmudgeon of the year” I should be in with a good chance of being nominated for that!

You may notice that there are less articles than usual in this edition, this is because we have only had two submissions, both gratefully included. Fortunately we had the reports from the recent AGM to pad things out otherwise it would have been somewhat “Thin”. That is also the reason you will not find a “Chairman’s Chat” this time. Terry decided he had chatted enough at the AGM to keep us all going for a couple of months at least. (fair comment)

Thank you to Dave Whiteside for supplying the front page article (bet that came as a bit of a shock Dave?). We decided to be different again and include his article because he answered the call for articles when we were a bit short and we thought that his experiences would be a good advert for the club. Apparently prospective members visit the web site and some may take the time to download the occasional newsletter. If they do then there it is on the front page a glowing endorsement of RCC.

On the subject of the web site and glowing endorsements, I recently overheard this: “Do you know I think the club web site is really easy to Navigate” (A.D Blackburn - AKA The Captain). They don’t come more glowing than that.

Thanks to Mark Dillon for his “Top Tips” I’m sure the demand for Wine Bags will increase to the point where he will have to start considering wine on his Corn Flakes just to keep up.

Thanks also to Suzanne for her article of introduction to her and her important role in the club. We are lucky that someone of Suzanne’s calibre has taken on the welfare officer role. It is a difficult one to fill as we have found in the past.

**Dates and Deadlines.** The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. We would appreciate all submissions by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send submissions to [newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk)

***Norman Green***  
[newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk)

# **AGM 2012**

***For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012***

***Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club***

***Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 8:00pm start***

## **Welcome**

Apologies for absence were received from Kevin Singleton, Nicky Marsh, Tony Marsh, Mark Dillon, Gary Fishwick and Bruce Carter.

Estimated number of members present 70.

## **Minutes for 2012**

2012 Minutes were circulated and approved by a show of hands: unanimous.

<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
John Hooper	Roy Booth

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

AT the 2011 AGM concerns were expressed about the fall in membership revenue for a second year in succession.

Members asked the committee to look at three things relating to membership

**Firstly:** Make it easier to pay membership fees:

Existing & New Members can now pay their fees at the H&D on a Tuesday Evenings. We accept cheques and cash.

**Secondly:** We were asked to re-introduce membership cards:

We stopped issuing cards when we stopped sending the newsletter by royal mail.

Apart from the Cost of the postage, who would you want to address the envelopes and insert the individual cards?

In fact not all members actually want a card so we would be sending them out to some members who don't want one.

We have gone for a compromise. We have had cards printed for 2013 Members can collect their cards when they pay their fees

If have already paid and not got a card you can collect one tonight or at the H&D on a Tuesday Evening.



**Thirdly:** We were asked to look at the possibility of members paying their fees electronically.

This has been discussed by the committee, but nothing has been finalised on the subject.

What we do know is it is likely to create a lot of extra work for the Treasurer.

Imagine trying to identify individual members when there are 150 plus transactions on the bank statements that are £20, £24 etc.

The Treasurer would then have to create a list of individual fees received and pass it on to the membership secretary to up-date the membership database.

This procedure would probably slow down the renewal process thus negating any advantages of paying electronically.

With the current process, within 48 hours of receiving a membership application an email is sent out with their membership number and they are registered on the forum as Club Members.

When renewals arrive I update the membership records, and if they arrive after 1<sup>st</sup> May, then the forum is updated to allow the member regain full access to the Forum.

We should not lose sight of the fact that committee members are all volunteers, most have families, full-time jobs, homes to maintain.

Into this busy schedule they also want to fit in some paddling. This doesn't leave a lot of time for Ribble Canoe Club admin work.

It is perhaps adopting easier ways to pay your membership together with a combination of other things that have resulted in the 25% increase in membership revenue this year. That is excluding the £312 received in 2012 for 2011 fees

Many people in the sports world thought that the Olympics would encourage more people to take up sports like canoeing, and that clubs would see an increase in membership numbers.

We asked new members if it was the Olympics that influenced their decision to join the club. There was a variety of reasons given, but everyone said it was nothing to do with the Olympics.

We must be doing something right!

I have some statistics if anyone would like to look at them, they will also appear in the next newsletter.

Thanks for listening has anyone got any questions?

**There were no questions raised by the members**

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Age Groups	Canoe England Members				Non-Canoe England Members				Totals	
	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
	Male		Female		Male		Female			
Under 16	1	1	0	0	27	15	11	10	39	26
Under 19	3	2	0	0	4	14	7	4	14	20
19 -45	20	34	8	11	46	30	24	15	98	90
45+	35	34	8	10	42	29	23	14	108	87
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>223</b>

Numbers by Membership Category			
	2010	2011	2012
Affiliated groups	2		0
Adult	186	167	196
Family			
Junior	53	46	53
Life members	8	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>259</b>

Activity	Numbers Interested		
	2010	2011	2012
Slalom	28	29	25
WW touring	124	117	114
Surf	77	69	69
W/W Race	7	5	7
Polo	27	24	26
General Recreation	238	205	236
Sea	98	90	100
Freestyle	19	12	16

### People Joining RCC and renewing their membership. The numbers included family members

	2011	2012	Up to 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2013
Joined During the year	48	72	39
Re-joined the following year	39		

## Treasurer's Report

I've distributed a number of copies of the a/cs around the room, hopefully you're able to see one. I've also distributed a smaller number of copies of the kit list that underpins the balance sheet – even in very small font it runs to four pages and I'm thinking of the trees.

The accounts for y/e 31/12/2012 present a picture of a club that is in a healthy position. While we are showing a small loss that is after adjusting for depreciation of equipment; in cash terms we're showing a surplus. Given that we don't set out to generate profits that is a reasonable position to be in. We have incurred substantial expenditure, but still have a healthy bank balance and have plenty to show for it.

We've invested in training – including developing coaches for the club and offering White Water Safety and Rescue and First Aid training for coaches and the wider membership. We've spent over £4500 on new equipment – the contents of the boat store are pretty impressive now.

The income side is in good shape too. An influx of new members has helped us along nicely – if any of you are here tonight, welcome. We've also made it easier for new and existing members to pay their subscriptions; helped in no small part by the luxury of having acquired a membership secretary without such distractions as a full time job – so thank you to Brian for your past contributions and to Pat for picking up the mantle.

Our courses remain a valuable source of income as well as fulfilling their main purpose of helping members to develop their skills in order that they may better enjoy their paddling – thank you to all the organisers, coaches and helpers. In 2012 our courses were well attended, however, pool hire fees at £50 a session (increasing again from April) have eaten into the surplus. Pool fees have resulted in a loss on other sessions – the committee will have to consider increasing pool session fees.

Other items worth a mention. The main items in donations are the receipt of a donated kayak (Prijon TourYak, thanks Tom Byrne) and £500 contributed to support developments at Halton. BCU affiliation fee is self-explanatory and continues to increase. Depreciation is an accounting adjustment to reflect the fact that kit wears out and loses its value. The sharp eyed will have noticed that Note 12 of the Notes to the accounts refers to the ceilidh held in January 2012. The committee missed this, the accountant didn't.

Any questions?

### There were no questions raised by the members

	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
Treasurers Report	Rachel Body	Allan Hacking
Acceptance of Auditor	Paul Binks	Kath Risely

## **Competition Secretary's Report**

This year has been yet another quiet year on the competition front in terms of total numbers competing but we have had some notable successes – more of that to follow.

### **Seaquest 2012**

Congratulations to the 'Captain's Team' and the 'Navigator's Team', both made up of RCC members, for winning the Gold and Silver medals in the Seaquest 2012 Event on the River Wyre in September. Bearing in mind that the majority of team members were 2 Star paddlers, this was an awesome achievement.

### **Buccaneer Run 2012**

This competition didn't run but is back by popular demand for 2013 with a sister competition called the Yorcie Run. Thanks to Adam for organising these events - see the Forum for details.

### **Rolling Competition 2012**

The annual rolling competition is now overdue if someone fancies organising it this year – any takers?

### **Tyne Tour 2012**

Rachel Body and Allan Hacking improved on their 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2011 to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2012 in the Topo Duo race. Can they go one better in 2013?

### **Liffey Descent 2012**

Roy Booth completed this descent and would recommend it to others as part of an organised trip, as the costs don't really warrant just going for the weekend.

### **Tay Descent 2012**

I have unconfirmed reports that Roy Booth also completed this descent – that's two descents in two months!! Did anyone else go? If you did then post it on the forum, so that more people might be encouraged to attend next year.

### **Freestyle**

Nothing to report in 2012.

### **Slalom**

Roy Garriock finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Veterans Division 2/3. However, he's chosen to compete in the Prem/Div 1 races for 2013 so it will be interesting to see how he gets on.

Michael Smith didn't compete in any Kayak Men's Division 3 races in 2012. Hopefully he will get to some races in 2013.

Mick Huddleston competed in Kayak Men's Division 1. He finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Masters rankings for his age group.

Alex Jones competed in the Kayak Men's Premier Division but due to his Canoe Polo commitments with Manchester Wildcatz didn't managed to stay up, so will be competing in Division 1 next season if time permits.

Jonathan Shaw competed in only one race last season in the Canadian Men's Premier Division and so was also demoted to Division 1. Jonathan is currently studying Paramedic Science at Worcester University which doesn't leave a lot of time for slalom training.

Jacquelyn Shaw continues to compete at international level with the GB squad and has secured her place already at this year's Senior & U23 GB selection race to be held on the Olympic course at Lee Valley White Water Course. Jacquelyn didn't manage to compete abroad last year due to other commitments but she did manage to win back the Canadian Women's Premier Division Bib 1 that she lost the previous year making her the top paddler in the UK in this category. As an unfunded athlete this is quite an achievement.

Finally, I'd just like to say that I am here to help any Ribble CC member who would like to try their hand at a competitive discipline whether it is a Division 4 slalom or a down river race. The next Div 3/4 slalom race is at Stone on March 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> and the next down river race is at The Burrs on the Irwell on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

If I didn't mention an event you competed in last year then it's because you either didn't post anything in the forum or didn't mention it to a committee member. So if you've got an event you've heard about and think other club members might be interested then post it in the forum and don't forget to let everyone know after the event how it went.

Here's hoping that Ribble Canoe Club has an even stronger competitive year in 2013.

## **Chairman's Report**

Once again this year I have to say that this club must be one of the most active canoeing clubs in world.....ever!! Our membership has soared – nothing to do with the Olympics our new Members assure us. But will they stay with us – that remains to be seen. Already a few initially active faces are being missed. Maybe they'll get back to us as the light nights and warmer weather return. But we rejoice in the new faces that have arrived over the past couple of years and are still paddling regularly with us, appearing at the Hand & Dagger on Tuesday evenings and turning up to social events. What is particularly heartening, is to see Members who've only been paddling a year or two starting to organise events and move the club ever onward and, hopefully, upward.

Nominations for our annual awards (excluding Pic of the Year) were received from 13 Members this year – a big improvement on previous years but still only about 4% of our membership.

10 Members were nominated for our Driftwood Trophy this year, 4 of whom have been paddling for less than a year. 4 Members were nominated for the Competition Trophy, and 5 for the Youth Challenge. There were 8 contenders for the Shakespeare Trophy, 8 for the Singleton Trophy and 5 for the Floater Award. 23 pictures were submitted to the Competition section of the Forum Gallery. Although quite a few Members appeared in nominations for more than one award, this all represents a fair bit of activity across a wide section of our membership.

A review of membership and renewal procedures was started at last year's AGM and a small temporary sub-committee took on the task of making application, renewal and payment easier whilst maintaining security. Full public access to our Website Forum was considered by some to be a risk, whilst others argued that it was a good advert for the Club. In the end, security issues won the day and access to the Forum has been limited to Members for much of this year.

The results so far have been good with increasing membership and renewal, only a couple of complaints and not one fist fight. Developments continue with Membership Cards becoming available again and more on-line possibilities being discussed. Many thanks to those involved with setting up these procedures, particularly Pat Green, Graham Kingaby, John Kington and Brian Woodhouse. I think Rachel Body was in there somewhere as well.

The Coaching Forum continued its activities throughout the year. I have to repeat what I said last year in that the meetings are sometimes most useful when discussions result, not in a decision made or a policy set up, but in the spreading of experience and knowledge from coach to coach. Coaching is a continuous learning curve, hopefully not too steep at any one time. It got a bit steep earlier this year (2013) with an adventure on the Crake. However a long discussion resulted, I hope, in a better understanding of various coaching and safety issues and our old enemy, "The Catastrophe Curve". If anyone still has issues with this item, please bring them along to the next Coaching Forum in April. At the same (February) meeting, another matter was raised regarding past treatment of youngsters at Star Award Assessments. Again a long discussion ensued and a lot was learned in a relatively short time. In addition one coach was able to get off his chest something which had been niggling him for some time. It's good to talk.

The Halton Water Sports Development Group is moving along albeit delayed by bad weather and planning matters (This IS England you know). The proposed lease for Canoe England is now due to run from 1 November 2013. Last year at this time we had just learnt of proposals for a hydro-electric scheme at Halton. Pat is due to attend a meeting on site in March to consider their proposals, but it looks as though the developers are bearing canoeists in mind. Pat and Norman are busy also with the Ribble Life project. As I write, they have just returned from a meeting at Samlesbury concerning environment, river use etc. If anyone has any questions regarding Halton or Ribble Life please put them to Pat at the end of this report.

Our summer camps went well this year at Cardiff White Water Centre, Rhosneigr, Bala and an extra one inserted by Graham Kingaby at the beginning of August, the Bude Surfing Experience. Thanks to organisers Gary Fishwick, John Kington, Rachel Body and Graham Kingaby.

It was back in 1953 that Sir Edmund Hillary was able to convey a message to Her Majesty the Queen at her coronation that he had conquered Mount Everest. This year our Queen's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated by four Ribble Canoe Club trips each of which must vie in importance with Sir Edmund's. On Friday 1 June the Captain's much flaunted Trans-Jock Expedition set forth on a paddle only slightly longer than the thread on the Forum! The following day a group of serious sea paddlers set out on a week's tour on the west coast of Scotland. On the Sunday the Jubilee Mugs paddled at Teesside and on Monday there was Ribble's Pageant on Coniston so notably recorded by the 6-year old Adventure Twins, Alice and Chloe Binks. Thanks in abundance must go to the intrepid organisers of these four adventures. If only Alice and Chloe had been around for Sir Edmund's little trip up a hill, what an epic illustrated tale would have emerged.

Members (that's you) organise a lot of paddles which aren't Club Trips as such, but rather a group of friends paddling together. It's good to see people getting out and making most of the sport and this is to be encouraged rather than members relying on club-organised trips. The Expedition Night held in January at The Hand & Dagger described many such trips involving camping and multi-day trips. So if you have an idea for a trip or expedition, talk to friends about it, organise it (with help possibly) and, if you want to, put it on the forum and invite other suitably experienced, competent and sociable members to join in. Other adventures of an impromptu and al fresco nature included Mr Binks' now traditional Halloween Canal trip, and Dumbongo night at the pool just prior to Christmas. This year's Dumbongo took the form of "The Flat Cap Challenge" and was another resounding success.

You can resign as Secretary, Paul, but don't stop organising these catchy and popular events. We'll have been out on your Moonlight paddle a couple of days before this AGM. I hope the weather was pleasant. A new tradition started this year by Adam Fielder is the Goonie Trips for developing paddlers. Details of most trips can be found on the Forum, and sometimes on the calendar too. So keep an eye out.

We held our annual Christmas dinner at The Hand & Dagger so well hosted by Martin Landlord and his staff. No mistakes and no nerves as far as I know, despite there being 64 of us dining. Our second Christmas do was in the form of a ceilidh held in January at Northumbria Hall in Fulwood. A night of fiddlin' n' dancin' was enjoyed by over 50 Members and brilliantly organised by Kath, Albert and Pat.

It's a wonderful club. Members often mention this. What makes it what it is, is the keenness of so many members to organise dos, their willingness to take on responsibilities, and their forgiving nature when I've forgotten to mention a name or event – as I'm sure I must have.

In the coming year we are aiming to purchase and place on site at The Hand & Dagger, a larger container and improve access from it to the canal towpath, all in conjunction with the Hand & Dagger's landscaping proposals.

Keep up the good work.

## **Elect Committee**

The following Committee Members are standing down at this AGM:

- Rachel Body

The following Committee Members resigned during the year:

- Katie Fishwick
- Gary Fishwick
- Nina Sparks

## **Committee Members Standing for Re-Election**

- Paul Binks
- Brian Woodhouse
- Graham Kingaby
- John Kington

No objections were raised.

<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Paul Wicks	Will Body

### **Committee Members Co-Opted on to the Committee and Standing for Election**

- Suzanne Thomas
- Pat Green
- Gareth Jones

No objections were raised.

<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Paul Binks	Albert Risely

### **New Committee Members Standing for Election**

- Jane Eccles
- Graham Eccles
- Paula Sharples

No objections were raised.

<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
John Hooper	Norman Green

### **Officers Standing for Re-Election**

- Treasurer                      John Kington
- Quartermaster                Graham Kingaby

No objections were raised.

<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Matt Aspden	Nick Lay

### **New Officers Standing for Election**

- Secretary                        Gareth Jones
- Membership Secretary        Pat Green
- Club Welfare Officer          Suzanne Thomas

No objections were raised.

<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Paul Smith	Allan Blackburn

*Any Other Business*

*Conclusion of Official Business*



# ***Nominations for Trophies Presented at AGM***

## **Driftwood**

Awarded to the club member whose paddling ability has improved the most during the last year.

**Nominees:** Matt Aspden, Tom Beer, David Cardwell, Mitch Dunne, Gary Fishwick, Gareth Jones, Sarah Jones Paula Sharples

**Honouree Mention:** Sarah Jones Paula Sharples for taking on sea kayaking

**WINNER:** Mitch Dunne for his sea kayaking achievements

## **Competition**

Awarded to the person seen to have achieved (or improved) most in Competition during the year.

**Nominees:** Roy Garriock, Jacquelyn Shaw, Michael "Smudge" Smith, Team Ribble

**Honouree Mention:** Team Ribble for Sea Quest & Tyne Tour

**WINNER:** Jacquelyn Shaw She finished Number One in Premier C1 Women

## **Youth Challenge**

Awarded to the club member under the age of 18 who has achieved the most in the past year, be it in improved paddling ability or competition.

**Nominees:** Lucy Bailey, Tom Beer, Michael "Smudge" Smith, Jack Turner

**WINNER: Michael "Smudge" Smith** His ever increasing skill at the age of 13, he has been on many of the bigger rivers around the area paddling and playing in stuff that lesser mortals look at and shake their heads. On top of all this he has achieved his 3 star WW award this year and once again beaten all comers in the rolling competition.

## **Shakespeare**

Awarded to the writer of the best newsletter article(s) in the last year.

**Nominees:** Paul Binks Roy Booth, Adam Fielder, Sarah Jones, Stephen Singleton

**WINNER: Paul Binks** For a variety of articles which always have an element of humour and are well constructed. January: Dumbong, Ramey Run. March: Ribble Roller May: Book Review – Three men in a Boat July: Encouraging his nieces' to write about the Jubilee Paddle Sep: Don't Forget your Fetch – Halloween Notice Nov: An Autumn Meander on the Spey

## **Philip Singleton**

Awarded for significant contributions to the club over a number of years

**Nominees:** Paul Binks, Roy Booth, Adam Fielder, Norman Green, Allan Hacking, Graham Kingaby, Terry Maddock

**WINNER: Norman Green** A man who does a heck of a lot for the club but has an uncanny knack of blending into the shadows. He's been a Ribble member since 1832, I think. He has informally coached and mentored many of Ribble's new paddlers. He does a lot of hard work behind the scenes with the BCU as well as sorting out Halton stuff. He has put a lot of effort into film making and recording video of many of Ribble C.C.'s members' exploits. He has also been an editor and writer of many articles for the 'Tales of the Riverbank', the club's newsletter. He also supports his wife in doing another stack of Ribble C.C. Work. Plus it's also good to support and promote ethnic minority paddlers, so I propose Eskimo Norman aka Norman of the North for the Phillip Singleton Trophy.

## **Floater**

The Floater trophy is awarded to the member who hasn't won 'owt and deserves summat for doing the most extraordinarily exceptional thing(s) during the past year - extraordinarily exceptional in any way which enhances the diverse nature of our club, be it silly, eccentric, adventurous, outlandish, courageous, bold, hardworking, entertaining, public spirited, mad, generous etc...etc...

**Nominees:** Paul Binks, Rosie Binks, The Captain aka Alan D. Blackburn Cynthia Conway, Sarah Jones

**WINNER:** The Captain aka Alan D. Blackburn Ribble C.C. has its fair share of pipe dreamers and 'shoulda woulda coulda's'. The Captain excels because whenever other paddlers say, "One day I'm gonna do... ", the Captain says, "next year, possibly Easter, we're going to ..." And he always does! So salutations and tributes must surely go to Capt Alan Blackburn the 'dreamweaver' for success in turning the following thoughts into realities:- The Tri Lake Challenge, The London Kayakathon, The Transjock Expedition, The 2012 Seaquest plus he's also a past Dumbongo and Rolling Competition Team Captain. If The Captain wins this award, could I suggest that it be presented to the lovely Sarah, for two reasons; she'll most probably be able to navigate herself to the stage, unlike the Captain, and secondly the club will be spared from listening to one of his relentless speeches! Also for raising money for the RNLI by organising the London 2012 Kayakathon & Trans Jock (Caledonian Canal Trip). This also generated the most replies/interest for any topic ever on the forum - 2,266 almost twice as many as any other topic.

## **Photograph of the Year**

**Nominees:**

Alice & Chloe Binks - The picture on page 2 of the July newsletter which was hand drawn by Alice and Chloe Binks. Along with their article it sums up why we all love 'messin' around in boats!

Andy Biggs - Clashnessie Bay Mark Dillon - Plastic's for Wimps

Adam Fielder - Transjock, Three Men in Their Boats Adam Fielder - Loch Lochy, Transjock

Suzanne Thomas Fleetwood Seaquest Jack Turner - Upper Kisdon, Swaledale

**A good third** - Suzanne Thomas. **Runner Up** – Andy Biggs. **WINNER** - Jack Turner

# Pool Sessions

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

Date	Session	Contact	Supervisor	Committee
15-Mar	Open		Matt Aspden	John Hooper
22-Mar	Sea Safety	Allan Hacking	Mark Dillon	Allan Hacking
29-Mar	No session	na	na	na
05-Apr	Open	na	Will Body	Gareth Jones
12-Apr	Paddle Skills	tbd	Matt Aspden	Graham Kingaby
19-Apr	Rolling Competition	Volunteer Required	Albert Risely	John Kington
26-Apr	Session for 2 Star course	tbd	Gary Fishwick	Mark Shaw
03-May	Open	na	Rick Turner	Terry Maddock
10-May	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Tony Morgan	Allan Hacking
17-May	It's a knockout	tbd	Will Body	Suzanne Thomas
24-May	Open	na	Paul Binks	Paula Sharples
31-May	Open	na	Adam Fielder	Brian Woodhouse
07-Jun	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	John Kington	Allan Hacking
14-Jun	Sea Safety	tbd	Matt Aspden	Pat Green
21-Jun	Open	na		John Hooper
28-Jun	Open	na	Gary Fishwick	

## **Prices for pool sessions:**

Rolling Course £20 plus club membership. All other sessions £4 - **from 5<sup>th</sup> April £5**

## **Pool Session Protocol**

Open sessions are open access, with no need to book. Please book in advance for ALL other sessions by phoning the named contact or via the forum.

If using club equipment it is up to the individual to collect it from the pool store before 9.00pm, after which time the store will be locked. A club member will be on hand to assist. (best to arrive @ 8.45)

If using your own equipment please ensure it is clean before entering the pool area.

If you use a boat at a pool session it is your responsibility to return it to where it came from (your car or the pool store) IMMEDIATELY at the end of the session and BEFORE getting showered and changed.

The pool sessions run from 21.15 to 22.15. We are not to enter the pool area before 21.05 - this to avoid risk of injury to swimming club members who have to clear the pool area by 21.05.

# ***Ribble CC Library***

Books and DVDs are free for all club members to borrow. See Albert or Kath Risely at the H&D Tuesday Evenings or contact them using the details on the following page. Donations of books or DVD's are always welcome.

## **General**

BCU Handbook (2 copies)  
The Practical Guide to Kayaking  
Canoeing & Kayaking  
BCU Coaching Handbook  
The Rough Guide to Weather  
Canoe & Kayak Games  
Working out of Doors with Young People  
More Than Activities

DVD - BCU 'Go Paddling' 2012

## **Touring & Sea Kayaking**

An Atlas of the English Lakes  
Canal Companion: Cheshire Ring  
Touring 100 Paddles in England  
Welsh Sea Kayaking Guidebook  
Northern England & IOM Sea Kayaking  
Scottish Sea Kayak Trail  
Scottish Canoe Touring  
Great Glen Canoe Trail  
Anglesey Info Pack  
Scottish Sea Kayaking Guidebook - **NEW**  
The Outer Hebrides Sea Kayaking Guidebook - **NEW**  
Sea Kayak Navigation  
Complete Book of Sea Kayaking  
Sea Kayaker Deep Trouble

DVD - Gt Glen Canoe Trail & Safety Info **NEW**  
DVD - Sea Kayak Rescues - **NEW**  
DVD - Sea Kayak with Gordon Brown -  
Instructional Journey along Skye Coast  
DVD - This is the Sea 1  
DVD - This is the Sea 2 - **NEW**  
DVD - This is the sea 3 - **NEW**  
DVD - This is the Sea 4  
DVD - Performance Sea Kayaking-  
Skills, rolling & rescue techniques  
DVD - BCU 3 & 4 Star Leaders Sea Kayaking

## **Canoeing/Open Boating**

Open Canoe Technique  
Path of the Paddle  
Canoeing Safety & Rescue  
Canoeing

DVD - This is Canoeing - **NEW** (ww & wilderness)  
DVD - Open Canoeing -  
Reg Blomfield (amazing moves!) (2 copies)

## **White-water**

English White Water  
Scottish White Water  
White Water Lake District  
White Water Kayaking  
White Water Safety & Rescue (2 copies)  
Weir Wisdom  
Many Rivers to Run  
The Playboater's Handbook 2

DVD - Moving on to Moving Water  
DVD - EJ's Advanced River Running  
DVD - The Call of the River -  
100 years of WW Adventure  
DVD - White-water Kayaking

## **Rolling**

Bombproof Roll and Beyond!  
Eskimo Rolling for Survival

DVD - This is the Roll - **NEW**  
DVD - EJ's Rolling and Bracing


## **Club or Club Members Trips**

DVD - Mags Brayfield in Nepal  
DVD - It's Different Every Time - Halton Rapids  
DVD - Fort William 2005/06 Easter Trip  
DVD - RCC Scotland trip 2007 & 2008  
DVD - Tay Descent 2011

## **Expeditions/Adventure/Action**

On Celtic Tides  
Blazing Paddles  
Dancing with Waves  
The Canoe Boys  
Rapids (a novel)  
Three Men in a Boat

DVD - Revenge of the Fat Cats (Greenland)  
DVD - The Cockleshell Heroes (wartime adventure)  
DVD - Tatshenshini/Alsek 2007  
DVD - Mountain River Movie (Canada)  
DVD - Liffey Descent 1992

	Ribble CC Contact List	Committee	General Information	Access	Courses	Instructor	Hand & Dagger Key holder	T.E.A. Trips	Beginners River Trips	Intermediate River Trips	Advanced River Trips	Sea Trips	Open Canoes	Surfing	Beginners' Slalom	Advanced Slalom	Polo	Freestyle	Other
Albert & Kath Risely							☺	☺											Library
Allan Hacking		☺			☺	☺	☺		☺			☺	☺						
Brian Woodhouse		☺	☺	☺				☺	☺	☺									
Elizabeth Kingaby																			Webmistress
Gareth Jones		Secretary																	
Graham Eccles		☺																	
Graham Kingaby		☺					☺												Quartermaster
Jane Eccles		☺																	Youth Rep
John Hooper		☺					☺												
John Kington		Treasurer								☺				☺					Treasurer
Mark Shaw		☺													☺	☺	☺	☺	Competition Secretary
Norman & Pat Green		☺						☺											Newsletter
Pat Green		Membership																	Membership Secretary
Paul Binks			☺				☺		☺				☺	☺	☺				Secretary
Paula Sharples		☺																	
Suzanne Thomas		☺																	Club Welfare Officer
Terry Maddock		Chairman	☺		☺	☺	☺	☺											Chairman
Will Body		☺																	

**Additional Key Holders:** Andy Dowe, Rick Turner, Roy Booth, Tony Morgan, Spare Key (Terry Maddock)

# CALENDAR

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

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.

## MARCH

*Tue 19 Mar  
Wildlife photography talk - Hand & Dagger*

**Sun 24 Mar**  
**Div 3 & 4 Slalom, Stone Staffordshire**  
**Club coach supported trip**  
**Contacts: N. Marsh, T. Maddock or A. Hacking**

Sun 31 Mar  
Washburn release

## APRIL

***Fri 19 – Sun 21 Apr***  
***Expedition Skills Weekend - Great Tower Scout Campsite***  
***Contact: Tony Marsh***

**Sat 20 or sun 21 Apr**  
**Beginners Trip**  
**Contact: Gary Fishwick**

Wed 24 Apr  
Washburn release

***Sat 27 – Sun 28 Apr***  
***Sea Kayaking Weekend Anglesey***

## MAY

*Wed 1 May*  
*Committee meeting - Hand & Dagger, Treales.*

Sat 4 – Sun 12 May  
Anglesey Sea Kayak Symposium

Sun 5 May  
Washburn release

**Sun 12 May**  
**Beginners Trip**  
**Contact: Roy Booth/Paul Binks**

## JUNE

Sat 1 June – Sun 2 June  
Coquet Island Race  
Amble, Northumbria

***Fri 21 Jun – Sun 23 Jun***  
***Spring Camp***  
***Loch Ken, Dumfries and Galloway***  
***Contact: Volunteer required***

## JULY

***Fri 26 July – Sun 28 July***  
***Sea/Surf Camp***  
***Rhosneigr, Anglesey***  
***Contact: John Kington***

***Fri 16 Aug – Sun 18 Aug***  
***Summer Camp***  
***Bala, Wales***  
***Contact: Rachel Body***

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