

# TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



*November/December 2013*

## *A Greek Odyssey*

*Gary Lord*



*The Tempo*

In last month's newsletter Norman made a big hint directed at me to write an article about becoming a new member of the club, and how by joining the club, I ended up having an unforgettable adventure sailing a yacht around the Greek islands.

Asking me to write a story is like asking Steven Hawkins to win the Tour de France. I spent my school years in set 4 English sat on the back row reading Motor Cycle News, the last book I read cover to cover was Janet and John "Off to Play" (If you are under 50 you might have to Google it) so let the story begin take a deep breath as my punctuation is rubbish

Looking out of the window I could see the outline of several islands dotted about in the vast blue sea, I began to get nervous and excited at the same time, how would I manage for 4 weeks in a 31ft yacht with someone I hardly knew? Would we get on? Would we meet the perfect storm? Or Somalian pirates? All of a sudden I became George Clooney fighting 60ft swells and Johnny Depp swinging on the rigging with scabbard between my teeth. Ding dong the fasten seat belt sign was illuminated I was arriving at Kos airport the journey had begun.

It all started in May this year, me and my wife Claire had decided to join a canoe club to meet people who shared an interest in sea kayaking. We had been sea kayaking for a few years but without much official training we felt a bit intimidated paddling out on the sea when the weather turned. So I thought we might hopefully get some training and meet friends at the same time. So I emailed RCC and got a prompt reply inviting us to the Hand and Dagger the following Tuesday.

We arrived at the car park about 6pm and wandered about looking for someone called Terry. He spotted us first and introduced himself and said "are you the couple from Florida." Well I thought we had travelled a fair way from Burnley but to find that people were joining the club from all round the globe must be a cracking club. After disappointing him by revealing we had come from the same county he told us another couple were joining who had just returned from spending the winter in Florida, their names were Chris and Denise. When they arrived we all got a boat each and went for a paddle on the canal with Terry. We all chatted as we paddled and got on well. Chris told me he was a keen sailor and was on the lookout for a yacht to buy and he had seen one in Greece for sale. We went for a drink later in the Hand & Dagger and because we didn't know anyone else we sat together and chatted all night.

The following Sunday we went on the beginner's trip to Windermere and met up with Chris and Denise and a few of the other club members who were really friendly and helpful and made us feel very welcome. The following Tuesday Chris told me he was flying out the following day to Leros to look at a boat and if it was ok he would buy it and sail it back to the UK. I jokingly said if you need crew I will help you sail it back and he said "ok" and asked if I could I sail. I said "the closest I've been to sailing was listening to Rod Stewart" meaning I had never even set foot on a sail boat.

While he was away I talked it over with my wife Claire and she said "if he wants you to go then go for it you might never get the chance again and there might be a holiday for me too." I didn't need much more encouragement than that.

The next time I saw Chris he said he had bought the yacht and had booked a flight to pick the boat up and sail it back to the UK. I told him I was up for helping him sail it back but could only get a month off work so I would sail with him for a month then get a flight back from wherever we were. I thought you only live once and this chance isn't going to come along again so I smashed open the grandkids piggy banks and got enough for a one way flight to Kos.

Landing at Kos airport and never having travelled alone before I felt different from the rest of the holidaymakers. I had a one way ticket, not a clue what to expect, I was more like Michael Palin the intrepid explorer carrying a bag full of yacht parts and ropes. Chris had got to Leros two week previous to work on the boat I had to get the ferry from Kos to Leros the next day to meet him. After a very exciting 20 mile crossing on a hydrofoil ferry I landed in Lakki the main port of Leros. I met Chris we went for a beer, Mythos, which I was to get very accustomed to, and then went to see "Tempo" a 1989 Westerly Tempest 31 a 31ft fin keel sloop, it was beautiful.



*Tempo in Lakki harbour*



*Top of the mast*



*First sail heading for Patmos*

The boat needed a bit of work before she was ready to set sail and one of my first jobs was to change the anchor light at the top of the 40ft mast. Chris winched me up sat on a piece of canvas, attached to a bit of fraying rope or what I now know as the main halyard, next job to replace pulleys at the end of the boom. Asking for pulleys and bushes in a small Greek fishing village is a lot harder than I first thought and it took about 3 trips to various shops including a grocers and frantic sign language and doodles of boats on bits of paper but we got there in the end and got the job done, hopefully she would be ready to cast off the following day.

We were up early the next day to buy supplies. Chris had hired a scooter for a few days so we went shopping on that. We had about 2 weeks supplies of food in bags and boxes including beer spirits and 20 2ltr bottles of water. Two big blokes sat on a little 50cc scooter loaded up like an Tibetan pack mule wobbling along the harbour front It was quite a sight and we must have looked very Greek. After loading up the boat with supplies filling her up with diesel and water we decided to head for Patmos about 15 miles north. Setting out on the boat my stomach was churning don't know if it was excitement or the rolling sea. I had never sailed before and it all seemed complicated with winches and pulleys ropes and cleats, main sheet, jib sheet, halyard, boom, tack, jibe it was like learning a new language. I was hold of the tiller and in control of a yacht in the middle of the Aegean Sea I thought the alarm is bound to wake me up in a minute. Patmos came into sight and I could see a big white mass on the top of the highest hill it looked like a small town. As we got closer we could see it was a great Monastery later I was to find out it was built for St John the Evangelist the bloke who wrote the book of Revelations. We headed for a small sheltered bay on the south east of the Island as the wind was getting up.

“Meltemi” a word which we would become very familiar with is the name of the prevailing strong winds which blow from the North West across the Aegean and is at its strongest in July and August. Sounds great for sailing but we were heading you guessed northwest right into it. We anchored in the bay and rowed the tender across to the taverna for a celebratory Mythos. While there I got on the internet to check the weather it said 30kn winds were forecast for the following few days so Chris made the decision to set off as soon as possible to make the 70 mile crossing to Mykonos. It would mean sailing all through the night. We rowed the tender back to the boat and hastily got things ready for a long crossing. We left the safety of the harbour about 7pm and headed east, as we came out of the harbour the wind hit us on the nose so we couldn't sail we would have to motor. Then the autopilot packed up, this is the device that automatically steers the boat to a compass setting. It was getting dark and I was feeling a bit apprehensive then the depth gauge was giving a wrong reading things weren't going in our favour so I asked the skipper Chris to turn back. After a debate we both agreed it might be best even though it would be pitch black when we got back. As we entered the narrow inlet to the harbour I could just make out the outline of the boats and the rocks. Chris steered the boat as I went below and shouted directions from the cabin while looking at the chart plotter. We had one chance to grab the only spare mooring buoy, the wind was getting up and if we missed the pickup there was not enough room to turn. So I hung over the front of the boat with my head torch on, my heart pounding and sweat running in my eyes boat hook in hand I made a lunge as we passed and got it.

We were safely back and tied on to the buoy, time for a can of Mythos. In the night the wind got up and I could feel the boat swaying wildly and hear all the yachts lines slapping in the wind I felt safe. We could have been out there in the middle of the sea in pitch black being tossed about all over. When we woke the wind was still blowing and Chris decided to move to Skala the main harbour of Patmos. We only had about 3 miles to go but it was a rough ride. Skala is quite a big port for the size of the Island and there weren't many boats tied up to the quay, although that was soon to change. In Greece the boats moor up Stern to the quay which means you have to drop your bow anchor and reverse up to the quay. This is a tricky manoeuvre at the best of times but when you have a 25 mph crosswind blowing you sideways it becomes almost impossible, after a few attempts we were secure, time for a Mythos. A walk round the village and a chat to the locals confirmed the forecast of 30mph winds with gusts up to 45mph for the next few days. We were kept entertained by working on the boat and watching the multi million pound yachts coming into the port for shelter. We ended up sandwiched between a 45ft Turkish Gulet and a 80ft £11,000,000 American super yacht owned by a Lebanese banker.



New neighbours



5am start



Into the sunrise



Leaving Patmos

After three days holed up in Patmos we decided to venture out into “the blue” and head for Naxos about 70 mile west, a crossing which would take us about 13 hours depending on wind direction. At 5am we followed the Lebanese banker out of the port it was a beautiful morning as we left Patmos we watched the sun rise over the sea “fantastic” we got the sails up and headed off into the sunrise. Looking out it looked a little choppy we could see the banker bouncing about in his big super yacht in the distance what were we in for? I've got to tell you I've done some wild things in my life from racing motorbikes and sidecars to downhill mountain biking in the alps but what I was about to let myself in for would make them look a walk in the park. It started rocking then rolling the wind dropped then it gusted at 40 mph we were swinging and jiving it was like being at a Buddy Holly gig, boom swinging spray showering us as the waves broke on the bow. A 3 metre swell doesn't sound much but this was a short choppy swell from all different angles tossing little Tempo around like a pinball. After 5 hours of this Chris asked if I wanted some dinner he appeared with a bowl of cold beans with big lumps of spam, it went down a treat and 2 minutes later came back up a treat right past his ear over the back of the boat the first and last time I would be sea sick. Only another 6 hours and I could get off. Oh No!!! 6 more hours of this!! After a while I relaxed and came to enjoy it in a strange sort of way and tried standing without holding on just balancing in the cockpit, it became like a fairground ride thrilling an exhilarating.

Naxos came into sight about 4pm still another 2 hours but this crossing must deserve a Mythos! We arrived with full sail up heeling at about 45 degrees I was a proper sailor now as I reached up to pull down the main sail as we rounded the breakwater and into Naxos town harbour. Plenty of back slapping and beer we celebrated my first major crossing. The next stop was Paros then an easy sail south west down to Despotico where we anchored in a small rocky bay. This is where I introduced Chris to snorkelling he loved it diving off the boat into the crystal clear sea hundreds of brightly coloured fish, sponges and wild underwater plants. I led on my back arms outstretched floating under the warmth of the sun thinking, if it wasn't for Ribble Canoe Club I would now be in Burnley trying to make a living fitting kitchens and watching the rain lashing against the window.

Now, one of my main jobs was, after we had anchored, to don mask and snorkel and dive off the boat to check the anchor was fast, the sea was that clear you could clearly see the anchor at a depth of 30 metres and the water was about 75 degrees.



***Tempo in Despotico***



***Tempo***



***Sunset on Despotico***



***My bed on deck***

The nights were very warm, once anchored safe and after a few beers I would sleep on deck, plug in my mp3 and watch the stars. When at anchor the wind would blow the boat to and fro and staring up at the stars gave the impression the whole sky was moving. The days consisted of early start awake about 5.50 have breakfast and decide a course for the day taking into account weather, really it's just the wind you take into account because every day you wake up it is clear blue sky, like I said earlier we were going in the opposite direction of the prevailing wind so we would motor if we couldn't sail instead of tacking.

We were heading west towards the Corinth Canal our next stop is Sifnos to get some supplies then on to Serifos and find an anchorage for the night. That night as I was led on deck I could see a strange orange glow in the sky behind the silhouette of the mountains I thought it must be coming from a large town. I was woken early the next morning by the sound of prop planes flying close by and looking across to the Island I could see the whole mountain was on fire. The planes scooping up seawater and were flying over and dropping water to douse the flames. The smoke from the fire was drifting right across the sea heading straight for us so we lifted anchor and set off on a 65mile crossing north west to Poros. Most of the crossing was directly into the wind so we motored most of the way and saw the odd dolphin and flying fish. The port of Poros was a culture shock it being a very noisy and busy town we were used to anchoring in small villages or empty coves. we tied up on the quay and went for a walk round the town bought a couple of parasols for shelter from the sun on the boat had a few large Mythos's.

Back on the boat it was hard to get to sleep on deck with the booming base sounds of dance music from the disco ship and kids using me as target practice throwing chips and olives, but eventually I drifted off. I awoke to the sound of dance music at 5.30am and had a breakfast of chips and olives that were scatted around the boat.



***Water plane***



***Serifos on fire***



***Disco boatDandy***



***sun shades***

The next stop would be the Corinth canal [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corinth\\_Canal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corinth_Canal) a fantastic piece of civil engineering effectively cutting Greece in half it is a very narrow channel about 2 mile long with 300ft high vertical sides. You have to pre book a passage through at a cost of nearly £50 per mile it is the world's most expensive canal per mile to sail on. It is open to one-way traffic only so you had to wait for a slot it was spectacular an unforgettable experience.

Once through the canal we had to look for a suitable place to anchor we ended up in a superb bay and anchored off a white beach complete with tavern so we swam ashore and partook in a few large

Mythos's while led on the beach at dusk the sun just setting listening to Bob Marley. It was another one of those times when I thought to myself of how lucky I was to have joined Ribble Canoe Club.

By this time we had clocked up over 300 miles since leaving Leros and I had got quite familiar with the boat those names which confused me now fell into place I Knew my role as crew and we worked as a good team together. I knew my bowline from my clove hitch my halyard from main sheet I would spend the days working on the boat polishing the lifelines and pulpits rubbing down and oiling the woodwork. On long crossings we used the auto helm which steered the boat automatically to a pre-set course which meant you could get work done on the boat.



**Queuing for Corinth**



**Corinth Canal**



**Chris the skipper**



**Bob Marley beach**

Leaving Bob Marley beach we were in the Gulf of Corinth the sea was like a mill pond with not even a slight breeze to cool us down we were surrounded by high mountains the temperature at midday was 39 degrees we were running on the motor but we had to put up the sail to get some shelter from the sun. There was a heat haze and a slight mist it felt quite eerie you could not distinguish the sea from the sky. I was sat on the bow of the boat taking pictures when we were joined by 2 dolphin which played on the bow wave of the boat, the sea was crystal clear so you could see them clearly underwater. One of the dolphins peeled away and a few minutes later I looked up to see the dorsal fins of about 20 Dolphins swimming towards the boat it was like a clip from the Blue Planet and I felt like David Attenborough we were completely surrounded by Dolphins twisting and diving jumping clean out of the water

This is a link to the clip on YouTube. Another good reason for joining Ribble Canoe Club.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5c8oBFHtCo>

The island of Trizonia was our next stop where there was an abandoned marina inhabited by gypsy type pirates with all sorts of old boats. Wooden old fishing boats, rusting steel trawlers and yachts from all over the world covered in solar panels and windmills. The decks were piled up with logs for the wood burning stoves it seemed like a floating hippy commune. Many of the boats were half sunk, it was a weird place just a tiny island with about a 2 dozen houses and 2 tavernas. We tied up the boat got the sun canopy up and dived in the sea to try and cool down then it's off to the tavernas for a few large Mythos in a frozen glasses and chat to the marine equivalent of the "Charley Manson family".



**Gulf of Corinth**



**Flipper**



**Flipper flying**



**Flippers mates**

We were now only about 150 mile from Corfu where I was going to meet my wife Claire for a week's holiday. I rang to say we would be there in a few days and to tell her to book herself and Chris's wife, Denise, a flight over. There was quite a lot of work to be done on the boat if Chris was to sail it back to the UK singlehanded as he couldn't get anyone to crew for him he needed an electric winless for the anchor, a new GPS and chart plotter as well as a spray hood and Bimini there was a boatyard at Nidri we could head for and get the work done.

Leaving Trizonia we were a bit low on fuel so we looked at the map and found there was a town nearby called Nafpactos we could stop in the small harbour and walk to the petrol station with a couple of jerry cans for fuel sounds easy doesn't it but not for us!! The pilot book said it was a small walled harbour not suitable for yachts bigger than 30ft ours being 31ft we thought would not be a problem. We entered the harbour through high castellated walls forming a semicircle with a narrow opening. It was very tight there were a lot of boats moored so Chris decided to moor up bow first meaning pointy bit to the quay. He told me to drop the stern anchor and he slowly nudged forward to the quayside only to run aground, so he put the boat in reverse and went over the anchor rope getting it caught fast round the propeller. So there we were floating around the harbour with no control of the boat, I had to jump off the boat and swim to shore with a line tie the boat up then put on my mask and snorkel and dive under the boat to try and free the anchor line. This was wrapped tight around the prop, all this was all made harder by the fact the harbour was overlooked by about half a dozen cafes and tavernas, all packed and nearly everyone was watching the free "Laurel and Hardy Show" below. After about half an hour of tugging and twisting I got the line free to the applause of the surrounding diners.



*Taverna on Trizonia*



*Marina on Trizonia*



*Entering Nafpactos*



*Rio Bridge*

Our next landmark was Rio- Antirrio Bridge which connects Polepponese to mainland Greece. The bridge is almost 2 mile long and you have to radio the bridge master just to go under it. Going under the bridge takes you out of the Gulf of Corinth into the Gulf of Patras we are now heading for the Ionian Sea. The land round here is very remote with 5000mtr mountains diving down into the sea with very few places to get shelter. So we headed for the uninhabited island of Oxia to try and get shelter from the strengthening wind. As we approached the island the wind was blowing about 30 mph with gusts up to about 45mph, we had to reduce the sail as the boat was heeling way over. There was no shelter around the island so we decided to push on to the nearest sheltered spot. We ended up dropping anchor behind a small island where there were a few yachts already anchored we felt slightly safer with others around and we could alert each other if any of us started to drag the anchor. That night we just sat on the boat and got drunk on ouzo and orange whilst looking at the sky, working out the constellations and talking drunken talk about the universe. I fell asleep on deck as usual.

When I awoke it was still dark but two of the boats had gone it was still blowing hard and I wondered if they had been blown away in the night. When Chris got up we decided to wait to see if the wind would drop and then head to the boatyard on the island of Lefkas. The wind didn't ease but we decided to make a dash for the certain shelter of the harbour of Nidri on Lefkas. It was about 30miles and would take us roughly six hours to get there, but there were quite a few small islands to give us a bit of shelter on the way. It was going to be a tough sail it was the gusts of wind that were hard to predict blowing round the mountainous islands we would be sailing about 6mph and a gust of about 40mph would just come from nowhere and blow the boat right over. The spray was hitting us in the face luckily the water was warm or it would have been horrendous we kept going. I was beginning to feel like George Clooney in The Perfect Storm. We sailed in between the islands of Katmos and Kalamos just to get a bit of shelter, but as soon as we got through the channel the gusts were back. Only 15 miles to go we had to drop the sail as Meganissi came into view and so did lots of boats. This area was the charter boat capital of Greece and there are a lot of people on hire boats that don't know what they are doing being blown around the narrow channels as we neared Lefkas. I've never been more relieved than when we sailed past Scorpios the island that Aristotle Onassis bought for his wife Jacqueline Kennedy. We were now approaching Lefkas and protected from the wind, half an hour and we would be in Tranquil Bay the most sheltered anchorage in the Ionian.

**40mph gusts****Lefkas****Entering the Nidri****Tranquil Bay. The End**

Tying the boat up to the quay in Nidri I felt sad it was the end of a journey for me. I had learnt so much in the 3 week at sea we had covered about 450 mile and met some great people it was a life changing journey but it was also the start of my sailing dream. We arranged an apartment for when our wives would arrive and had a great holiday with them we took them out on the boat for a couple of days and they loved it.

Since getting back to the UK I've talked my wife Claire into joining the local sailing club, where I met a bloke who asked if I would accompany him on the first commercial flight into space, only joking. We have now bought a sailing dinghy and are both learning to sail; I am hoping to get my Day Skipper licence next year and plan on buying a yacht in the near future. Chris ended up not bringing the boat back to England but sold it in Greece having decided it needed too much money spending on it.

So the moral of this tale is join Ribble Canoe Club it could change your life, it did mine. I've also been on some life changing trips with RCC to. Loch Ken, The Dee Trail, Coniston, Windermere, River Brathay, Fulwood Baths, Hand and Dagger And I hope there are many more to come

***Cheers Gary***

## ***RCC Christmas Paddle & Picnic***

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013**

For the last two years we've run the Rothay on Christmas Eve and stopped off at White Moss Common for festive nibbles. As it is accessible from the road none paddlers have joined us also. Pat and Kath's mobile catering services providing hot food and drink to accompany the food taken in the boats.

As a number of folk do silly things like work or prepare for the big day on Christmas Eve this year we are going to run it on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

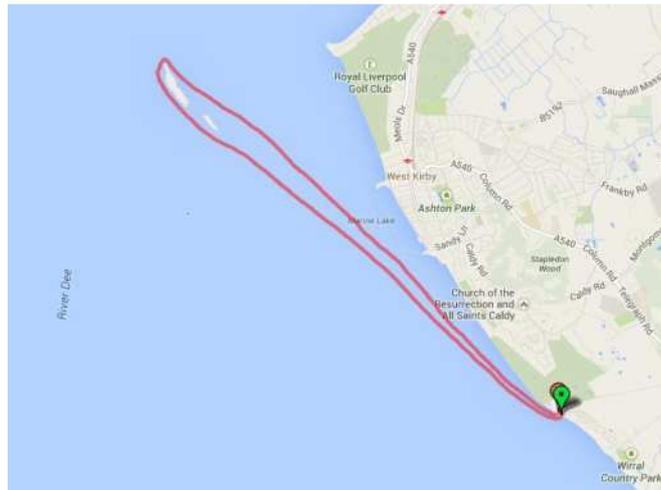
River Rothay is notoriously finicky regarding levels and can only really be run with levels above 0.75m and below 0.9m so we may have to do a flat paddle instead; contingency being Windermere either from Waterhead or Ferry Nab, latter also allowing lunch at a road accessible picnic spot. Keep an eye on the forum and put the date in your calendar.

***Paul Binks***

# Hilbre Island

## Sea Kayak Race 2013

*Paula Sharples & Sarah Jones*



Hilbre Island is the largest of a group of three islands at the mouth of the estuary of the River Dee, and lies about 1.6 km from Red Rocks, the nearest part of the mainland of the Wirral Peninsula. Organised by Liverpool Canoe Club, the main Hilbre Island Race goes clockwise around all three islands (13km) while a shorter race for General Purpose and touring boats goes clockwise around the Little Eye (9km).



A small Ribble contingent entered this year consisting of Sarah and Gareth Jones and Paula Sharples. Starting from Dee Sailing Club with a Le Mans style start the race began at 12.30 and as usual there was a kind of organised chaos with everyone trying to get onto the water. With all types of kayaks entering from singles to tandems, white water racers and surf skis, we realised that there may not be any trophies for this race but that didn't stop us from giving our all.

On the way out to the island we found ourselves in the midst of the dingy races that were also taking place. Despite having to avoid the various boats, the water was calm and the weather warm for a Saturday in September with a slight breeze to cool us down.



As we neared the first island, Little Eye, the racing group split as some paddlers took part in the shorter race and the rest of us continued onto Hilbre Island. Here there is a deep water shelf that comes quite close to the island causing it to be a little more choppy which slowed us down and gave us the opportunity to see the audience of seals that were watching and allowed Sarah to take some pictures of the Island.



The return journey was definitely the hardest part. There was no longer a breeze and the sun was rather warm at this point and we all learnt the importance of hydration. Always remember your liquids!!! All three of us were affected by this and the fact that this was the longest race we had participated in combined to make the final stretch rather a slog. We finally made it in with the grand old time of 2 hours and 5 minutes for Gareth and 2 hours and 12 minutes for the girls, a time that we were rather proud of.

After recovering from the race we then faced the uphill climb to the Dee Sailing Club with our boats (boy that was hard work too!) and Liverpool Canoe Club then hosted a BBQ along with the presentation, sorry no prizes for us this time!

The 2014 Race has already been organised so mark the 13th of July in your calendars and maybe Ribble Canoe Club will have more of a chance at those trophies.

**Article By: Sarah Jones and Paula Sharples  
Photographs Courtesy of Liverpool Canoe Club**

## ***Recent Ribble Rabble on the Rothay***

### ***WHAT MORE COULD A NEW RCC MEMBER WISH FOR?***

***Mark Green***

There has been quite an influx of new members to the club recently. An abundance of them seem excited about having a go on those interesting rivers that we talk about in the pub. It is also an ideal opportunity to prove to the new members that these river trips DO happen in the real world. The recent Rothay Trip seemed like a perfect opportunity for the coaches to say “well come on, we’ve seen you on the canal, now show us what you are really made of!”

With the lack of water in the rivers in Cumbria, whether this trip was going to happen when it did, seemed rather suspect. But taking a positive approach i.e. “the glass is half-full” (more than I could say for the river itself) the group leader Allen Hacking made the decision that the trip would go ahead.

When we set off from the car park at Grasmere, we encountered a fairly fast section (as usual). The new river members were thinking that we are a group of nice pleasant people. But I’ll bet their opinions soon changed when they came to the conclusion that they had been thrown in at the ‘deep-end’! I refer here of course to the metaphorical ‘deep-end’ not the literal ‘deep-end’. It wasn’t deep enough for a vertically challenged paddler like me to get his feet wet even!

First section concurred. No problems, no casualties, all present and correct.

So what’s next? Well, best not to get too tied up and worry about the next hazard. Just keep your wits about you and keep paddling. There are quite a few fast flowing sections with overhanging trees. And not to mention, rocks sticking out – friend or foe? You decide!

White Moss Common, ideal location to have lunch. And just to prove to any passers-by that us Ribble folk are not a bunch of common or garden plebs, we can even do things in a way that would gain acceptance from Mrs Hyacinth Bucket. We sat at the picnic benches to build up our carbohydrate levels ready for the next bit.

Next step, Rydal Water: Just a gentle, sedate paddle to let your lunch go down, ready for the next exciting section. A bit further on, we did encounter a section where a few paddlers got pinned and stuck on the rocks. I did warn you about this earlier didn’t I? Friend or Foe! Only a few minor incidents and nobody hurt, so nothing really to whinge about.

The ‘Stepping Stones’: Sometimes we can just paddle over them if the river level is high enough. Most of the time, we have to get out and portage. There is of course that other option, as most of us paddle in plastic boats; you can of course try your ‘Evel Knievel’ type thing and boof over them. Unfortunately, the river was so low that even squeezing between the stones would prove rather difficult.

The Rothay Hotel Weir: This is usually a fairly good place to do some playing about. Some of us surfed on the main wave, whilst a few others had an opportunity to practice what they had just been told about ferry-gliding and breaking in and out.

Waterhead: So that's the **river** trip finished, just that last bit across the top of Windermere to the car park. Oh yeah, we forgot to tell you about that last slog, when you are tired after a day's paddling. Were any of you new river members making comparisons with 'Boot camp' by any chance? You may have passed the 'Star' test but there is still that 'Endurance' test to go!

Before I got out of my boat at the end, I was just going over my thoughts from the day. I did notice during the day, that there were quite a few walkers/hikers taking a close inspection and wondering what we were up to. Maybe they had heard about the new paddlers who had just been awarded with their BCU Star Awards. Maybe they were just out 'Star Gazing'? If you are a new member and new to river trips, then you will have learnt something about important items of kit to have with you: throw-line (and knife), first aid kit, warm drink, warm clothing, survival bag.

Anyway, a good day was had by all, I think. Well it would be wouldn't it, with exciting river rapids (and clean water – given its source), good social company, good coaching advice, good weather? We were quite lucky with that one, it is Autumn in the Lake District and it wasn't raining all day or blowing a torrential gale with the wind. And of course, free cakes being handed out at the end to finish the day off nicely! So, in my question 'titling' this article, what more could a new club member wish for?

Anyway, why am I writing this? How about one of you new members presenting your thoughts and opinions of the day? In next month's Newsletter how about an article about a river trip from your perspective, maybe?

And before I sign off, on a more serious note, a big thank you to Allan Hacking for organising the event. THANK YOU ALLAN!

***Mark Green***

## ***Three Wise Canoe Monkeys and the Purple Moose:***

**Welsh Canoe Symposium (Beards, Beer and Boats)**

***Paul Binks***



Have you ever been to a beer festival? With marked exception of Mowbreck Beer Festival, they are typified by middle aged men with beards and beer bellies sitting in a hall, drinking beer and talking about beer and things of limited interest to others, but great interest to themselves; Canoe Symposia are not too dissimilar, but you also get out and do a bit of paddling and fire lighting. Tony Marsh, myself and Sam thought we'd get Symposed this year and see if we could pick up a few tips to improve our paddling.

The event took place in Bala, mid Wales, early October and was attended by about 150 people from all over; special guests from Canada and the Netherlands but participants from as far afield as Scotland, Dorset and Norwich. Talking to those from Norwich they were very excited to see hills and rivers actually flowing and took full advantage of the White Water safety training on the Tryweryn. The weekend was split into 4 half day sessions with full day trips on the Tryweryn or Dee. The three of us choose a variety of sessions: rafting and sailing, bushcraft, fire lighting, poling and freestyle paddling.



The way the Symposium works is that the coaches all volunteer their time. The first session we all attended was the sailing one. Thankfully there was a bit of a breeze so we did manage to get some sailing in. Rather than being taught how to do it, it was very much experimental with learning from each other whilst being guided by the coaches. In the afternoon Tony stuck with sailing and me and Sam had a very enjoyable afternoon learning how to chop wood, make fire sticks, light fires, cook bannock bread and tie things up. On the Sunday I did a session on free style paddling, which is basically paddle skills. Our coach taught in the American Canoe Association method which had us concentrating on our hip position and posture; bit like a yoga class in a boat.

Having got the bug the day before Sam carried on learning how to burn things and was joined by Tony, who surely has a PhD in burning stuff by now! After lunch we all had a go at poling; not as easy as it looks, and it doesn't look easy, well not the way I do it anyway. We all managed to get at least on to the rapid, which was quite tame to be honest, but still difficult. A few potential face-meets-boat manoeuvres reinforced my conclusion that poling isn't for me, though Tony and Sam fared better.



On the first evening we were introduced to the Purple Moose Brewery of Porthmadog and their fine selection of local bottled ales and enjoyed a talk of a three week tour to the Arctic Circle in canoes down Canadian rivers. Having been introduced to Purple Moose on evening number 1 it was considered rude to ignore this new friendship on evening number 2. The fine full Welsh breakfast served by the centre provided a Ying to the after effects of the Purple Moose's Yang and ensured we were restored for our full days paddling.

***Paul Binks***

# ***What do you know about Canoe England?***

Anyone fairly new to paddling may have seen lots of references to “Canoe England” but may not be aware of its role and how it impacts on us as paddlers with a canoe club. This article attempts to shed some light on the organisation and how it operates nationally and within the English Regions.

First of all you should be aware that as a club, we pay an affiliation fee to CE (Canoe England) based on the number and age of members. This covers us for insurance purposes whilst out on club events.

Our coaches are members of the CE coaching scheme which helps to ensure that we receive up to date coaching and assessment in paddling skills.

The Club is required to operate in an ethical way and can be helped by CE to do so in such matters as child protection etc.

As a CE affiliated club it has the credentials to deal with other organisations in matters relating to grant applications, hire of facilities like swimming pools etc.

What is also important to realise is that CE is not just a “Top Down” organisation. Whilst it has a central organisation based in Nottingham, with paid staff, it also depends on a lot of local volunteers to do unpaid tasks which it is not able to do from its central location. Indeed it does not have the financial resources to do many of the tasks even if it wanted to.

These tasks are things like “Local Waterway Advisors” (LWA) whereby each river has a volunteer who oversees local issues affecting our use of it. For example prior to a recent trip on the Rothay I had heard that there was a tree down and it could cause a problem for paddlers. I contacted the LWA who was able to tell me what the problem was and how he would talk to the local landowner about having it removed. This could never be done by a Central Body in Nottingham in a timely manner. But equally it is CE who sets up and supports these LWA’s.

Local volunteers also act as “the eyes and ears” of CE centrally. The on-going developments at Halton are a result of local paddlers highlighting the opportunity that arose when the land changed hands. Local volunteers then took on the task of securing the development opportunity but only because they were heavily guided and supported by CE centrally.

CE Volunteers often attend meetings in their locality on behalf of CE Head Office Staff. For example Pat and I attend Ribble Life meetings and report back what has taken place so that the views of paddlers are heard and taken into consideration. This information can be used in policy making and planning by CE.

CE also has a Regional Development Team (RDT). It meets every two months to try to carry out the Regional Development Plan. This plan is created in the NW region and is based on the “Mission & Vision” of CE centrally. Members of the RDT include a Coaching Officer, a Waterways Advisor a Webmaster and the usual Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. One of these officers can attend meetings of the “English Council” and represent the region.

The NW Region receives £1,000 p.a to assist with running costs. Anything above £1,000 has to be raised by the Region.

If any club member wants to know what the RDT do, then they can attend these bi-monthly meetings to find out and raise issues of concern if they so wish. You and your input would be well received.

### **What has the CE NW Region RDT done for Ribble Canoe club?**

If members want to embark on the journey of becoming a coach, then the RDT provides financial support in the form of a “Bursary” for some elements of the journey. This is offered through the local clubs to ensure that the benefits are spread as widely as possible and for the greatest advantage of club paddlers generally. During 2013 RCC has received **£465** from NW Region in Bursary Grants.

The RDT sponsors some regional coaching events via the Regional Coaching Panel. These can be things like coach update weekends. The coaching panel consists of a Local Coaching Officer (LCO) from each of the Counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside & Greater Manchester led by the Regional Coaching Officer (RCO). Like the rest of the RDT these are all unpaid volunteers.

Currently the only Regional Development taking place as far as infrastructure is concerned is the one at Halton. This is overseen by a sub group of the RDT who report to both the RDT and to CE centrally because of the financial and legal implications. Another thing it has done recently is to provide some financial support to the setting up of a Canoe Polo League at the instigation of Manchester Wildcats Canoe Polo Club in Salford.

One of the things CE is sometimes criticised for is that it does not seem relevant to paddlers in their day to day paddling. If paddlers really believe that, then they have the opportunity to come along to RDT meetings and express their views on what they would like to change or improve. It has been very difficult in recent years to form an enthusiastic team of volunteers to perform the tasks of the RDT, but since the last Annual Consultative Meeting there is a full complement of officers and things seem to be starting to happen at last. What is needed now is for the paddling community to show a bit of interest and to engage more in what they do.

**The next meeting of the RDT is the Annual Consultative Meeting taking place at Halton on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013.** This will be preceded by the opportunity to paddle on the river and to use the new facilities at the site. Subsidised food will also be available after the meeting. Surely that is an offer that is hard to resist.

Remember you are part of Canoe England its success is dependent on your input as well.

If you want more information, visit:

NW Region Website <http://www.canoe-england-northwest.org.uk/region04/>

Canoe England Website. <http://www.canoe-england.org.uk/> Click the link “About” then “Read more about Canoe England” for fuller details.

***Norman Green***

# ***Facilities at Halton Rapids***

**Application forms for key fob and parking permit** can be downloaded from the NW Region Website <http://www.canoe-england-northwest.org.uk/region04/> click on the link on the Home Page “Changing Room and Car Parking Facilities Halton Mill”

## **Interim Arrangements until work is complete**

Due to the fact that there is still some work to be completed at the site, it has been agreed that canoeists should have free access to the site i.e. CE Car parking spaces, launching and use of changing facilities. CE North West would like to see the site used, with unlimited access to all.

Access to the changing facilities via a key fob system is not likely to be operational for at least three weeks. In the meantime Lancaster Cohousing (LCH) will ensure the door to the mill is un-locked to enable paddlers to enter and use the changing facilities providing each individual signs in/out of the building (there should be a book in the changing rooms). It would be appreciated if paddlers didn't get changed in the car park or on the street, as residents may be offended, especially given there is a designated changing facility provided.

The site policies are currently set by Lancaster Cohousing **not** Canoe England. Please accept that it is early days in the use of the site, no doubt things may alter in the light of experience and when all the work is completed.

Once all work is completed and the site is fully operational paddlers will need a Key Fob to access the facilities and a car parking pass to use the car park. I am therefore still accepting and processing application forms for Key Fob and Car Parking Pass. Money received with applications will be held by me, as Treasurer of CE NW Region, until LCH are in a position to issue functional programmed Key Fobs.

## **Location of Facilities provided for Canoe England Members & Affiliated Clubs**

**Designated Car parking Spaces** – these are on your right as you enter the car park

**Changing rooms & toilets** – opposite the car parking space is a green entrance door to the mill, as you go through the door the toilets etc. are on the left hand side.

**Signing In** - Before entering the toilets please sign in (Health & Safety request by the owners). The book is on a chair near changing room door. Please also sign out before leaving the site, this is because if there was a fire in the building there would be a record that you had left and a search would NOT be conducted for you.

**Access to the river** either walk down the side of the mill and up the bank to the top of the rapids or follow the yellow path at the side of the car parking spaces – this leads to a set of wide steps for access/egress to the river.

Please contact me if you need any further clarification or have any further questions regarding use of the site. Email [haltonrapids@canoe-england-northwest.org.uk](mailto:haltonrapids@canoe-england-northwest.org.uk)

Thank you for your co-operation.

**Pat Green**

# ***Trophies to be Awarded at the AGM***

## **Driftwood**

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

## **Competition**

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

## **Youth Challenge**

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

## **Shakespeare**

The Shakespeare trophy is awarded to the writer thought to have contributed most/best to the newsletter in the last year.

## **Philip Singleton Trophy**

The Philip Singleton Memorial trophy is awarded for significant contributions to the club over a number of years.

## **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.....

## **Pic of the Year**

The Pic of the Year trophy will be awarded for the best picture published in the Newsletter or on our Website Gallery in the current year. You can select a picture from anywhere on the Forum Gallery and copy it into the Photo Competition area of the same Forum Gallery. Any photo from the magazine can also be submitted by copying it to the same Photo Competition area. Nominations are limited to three per member.

All members are invited to submit the name of any member(s) they feel deserve any or several of the above awards. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Chairman either in person or by post to Dean Nurseries, Chapel Road, Blackpool FY4 5HU or by e-mail to [chairman@ribblecanooclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@ribblecanooclub.co.uk) by 31 December 2013.

**Go on, nominate some deserving member**

Please email nominations to

**[Chairman@ribblecanooclub.co.uk](mailto:Chairman@ribblecanooclub.co.uk)**

# ***AGM 2013***

## **Agenda**

Notice is hereby given that the Ribble Canoe Club AGM for the year ending 31st December 2013

**Date:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

**Time:** 7:30 for 8:00pm start

**Location:** Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club Garstang Road, Broughton, Preston PR3 5JE

for the following purposes:

- To receive the Hon. Secretary's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2013.
- To receive the Hon. Treasurer's report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2013
- To receive the Competition Secretary's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2013
- To receive the Hon. Chairman's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2013.
- To elect Officers and Members to the General Committee.
- Agree membership fees for 2014
- To appoint auditors.
- To discuss any other business.
- To present the Club Trophies

Anyone wishing to put forward an item for the agenda must put it in writing to the secretary by 31 December 2013.

*By order of the Committee  
Gareth Jones, Secretary*

## ***Reasons to be Cheerful Part 2***

***Gill Woodhouse***

- 1) Birth of my granddaughter. Nothing to do with canoeing but definitely a reason to be cheerful
- 2) Canoeing again after last year's problems
- 3) Canoeing on the canal on a beautiful summer's evening, truly uplifting
- 4) Passing the 1 star. Yippee!!!! Yabba Yabba do!!!!
- 5) All the help and encouragement I got for the 1 star, it was much appreciated
- 6) Swimming lessons to improve my swimming. Why does the Ribble not organise lessons for swimming in a buoyancy aid?
- 7) Loch Ken, lovely site, beautiful countryside, good company, an enjoyable trip on the loch, very enjoyable but this was where I realised that after all these years of tenting, I am now too old to tent.
- 8) We bought a small motorhome. Not only does it carry canoes and act as a mobile changing room with facilities, we can also use it for breaks and holidays.
- 9) The Coniston trip. Seeing the very impressive armada of Ribble craft as we went back together. Watching the braver ones seal launching
- 10) Sitting round a camp fire just talking



***Me on my sit on top***



***Enjoying Tuesday Evening on the canal***

***Gill Woodhouse***

**\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\***

Here is what you've all been waiting for! Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to have some fun – with fabulous company thrown in as well!

We are proud to announce the

# Ribble Canoe Club Ceilidh

To be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
At Northumbria Hall, St Cuthbert's Church Centre  
Lytham Road, Fulwood  
Preston PR2 3AR  
Doors open 7pm

Dancing 7.30pm to 11pm will be to the excellent Millstone Ceilidh Band

Tickets cost £10 which includes Hotpot supper and fruit pie and cream dessert.

They can be bought from Norman or Pat Green or Albert or Kath Risely (all usually at Hand & Dagger on Tuesdays) or post a cheque payable to Ribble Canoe Club to our Membership Secretary (please include SAE). Numbers are limited so if you don't want to miss out then get yours sorted soon.

There is no bar at the venue so bring your own drink as you will get hot & thirsty – if you don't then you're not dancing enough!



Be there or be square!

# ***Pyranha Fest***

## ***21-22 Sept Bala N. Wales***

***Roy Booth***



Once upon a time a long while ago I was on the River Tryweryn when Pyranha mouldings were having their festival and I thought that I would like to go along to one.

So having a free weekend that coincided with this year's Fest I decided to post on the forum to see if anyone else was fool enough to join me, and would you believe it but young Matt and Mister T posted to come along. Also the Selby clan said that they would be there but would sort themselves out.

The Fest is held in Bala North Wales and uses the dam release on the River Tryweryn for its paddling and a field by the slalom course just below Bala Mill Falls for its camping and entertainment. So having read the web site I decided to book full weekend camping, a coaching session for Saturday and car park pass. Matt did the same and Mister T booked for Saturday only. The Selby's booked full for the weekend with coaching on Sunday.

Pyranha communications, once they have your money, is minimal to non-existent so it was a frantic email and Facebook post late Wednesday that yielded the email with the information pack. This contained a satellite picture of the road into the campsite. No problems you think but on Friday night having driven round a housing estate and then a large estate house in an inconspicuous van the only turn left to take was down by a footpath sign! Yep a well routed path (glad I don't have low profile tyres) led to a field with a marquee set up in it. I think my navigation is getting to be as good as the Captain's. Young Matt arrived a short time later so after Chinese meal, a glass of wine and a beer we turned in for an early night.



*Pyranha Tent*

Saturday morning broke warm but grey and damp, young Matt and I met the Selby clan leader but no sign of the others. So we left him to it and went to the centre where we meet up with Mister T for our coaching session, along with Elsa.



*Elsa, Mister T, Young Matt, Paul Smith (coach) Roy*

As always these level 5 coaches are fantastic, our coach was Paul Smith who runs rock and water adventures. I would advise anyone who gets a chance to go out with paddlers like these to take it. We had approximately 5 hours on the river with Paul it was money well spent.



*Young Matt on the slide again*

It was when we were on a short lunch break that we met the Selby clan leader; they still had not got on the water!!! How any kids can sleep till nearly noon when there is a river to paddle surprises me.

After the course was finished we decided to paddle the lower Tryweryn back to the camp site but a brew and cake was needed before this feat. Whilst walking to the centre I met one of the clan members and told him where we were going to paddle in 10 minutes, he said he would round the clan up and join us. Now this is where I find out that this is clan faff, I always thought that when a Binks teamed up with a Green they were world leaders in Faff but they have lost that title to this clan. Needless to say it was little longer than 10 minutes before we were all ready to go. The 6 of us paddle the lower it was a pretty uneventful trip until young Matt decided to do Bala Mill Falls on his backside!! No harm done – I think he may have some padding inside that big yellow suit of his.

After a wash and brush up we went to the big top for tea (baked potato and chilli) and to listen to the talks. It was during the talk on Borneo I realised I was at the wrong party as the speaker was telling us that he had meet some old folk at the top of the hill building their own summer house they must have been 55 plus **WHAT!!!**

A short time later the music started loud and confusing, young Matt and Mister T still think they got what it takes I think that the beer and 1½ bottles of red wine they had consumed might have helped a little.



Sunday dawned bright, clear, and warm, as I wandered around the camp site it looked more like a disaster area with cans, bottles and litter all over. I'm glad I was not on clean up duty. I think some of the tables came off worst after some people were dancing on them (not us). I found the Selby clan up and getting ready, they didn't look or sound too impressed with being up at 9:00 am.

Young Matt was trying to get in some down time when I went to see him, he did not look his most youthful to say the least but we sat and chatted whilst watching to see if there was any life stirring from Mister T's tent. When he did finally arise he asked what time we were getting on the water. At this I cut him some slack and said 10:30 at the centre, at which point he said 'I am off to the café see you there' and within minutes he was packed and gone!



*Mister T on the slippery slope*

The day split into 2 parts for me as young Matt did not feel up to the upper but would give me a hand to take some others down the lower

Mister T wanted one last blast on the upper just the top grave yard section. He wanted to try and get all the eddies (bit more practise needed there me thinks).

At just after 12:00 we moved down to meet Keith, Tom and young Matt to do the lower, we said our goodbyes to Mister T and got on.

This turned out to be a lot quicker trip than I expected as Tom seemed to be setting the pace and when I tried to stop and play no one else was interested. I think Tom just wanted to do the falls and would have been happy to just run it time and time again – the impatience of youth.



*Young Matt surveying his lot*

Would I do it again? Yes if there was a slightly larger group of mixed ages going or when I want some cheap coaching, it's well worth the expense.

Just a note it's crowded with boats on the river, the music is loud, the beer is expensive, the camping would be a nightmare if it was a wet weekend but the coaching is cheap and the crack is fantastic

***See You There Soon  
Roy Booth***

## ***Tyne Tour13: Race results***

RCC entered in 3 of the 5 classes for the Tyne Tour race, Barrasford to Tyne Green, a distance of 6 miles taking in wave trains, a weir, a couple of sets of rapids, the infamous Warden Gorge and some long flat sections.

**Top duo Class:** Allan Hacking and Rachel Body entered for the 3rd year running. Having come 2nd the previous year the pair was determined to improve their position. They chased the leaders the whole race and finished a boats length behind, a very close finish. An involuntary eddie- out on Warden Gorge costing them vital seconds.

**Open Boat Classes:** Single and Tandem: Five Open Boats took part, 4 tandem and Will Body as the sole entry in the single class. Will maintained 2nd position throughout, which is incredible considering the extra power tandem Opens have. The wind was troublesome on the flat stretches but Will's skills and determination helped him to maintain position. Despite rider and boat parting company on Warden Gorge, Dave Cardwell and Paul Binks fared less well, to begin with exiting the boat and losing a paddle within 100m of the start line. Not deterred despite losing best part of ten minutes the pair plucked from their reserves of grit, determination, brute strength and ignorance and ploughed on. On leaving Warden Gorge Dave and Paul had already passed one tandem pair and had the 2nd place tandem pair in sight. Despite having more than a decade (in age) on the pair in front they overtook and maintained a healthy distance from the 5.5 mile mark to come in 3rd overall and 2nd in the tandem class.



Some of our Kayakers got their photograph in the Hexham Courant  
For more photos <http://www.hexhamcourant.co.uk/pictures/tyne-tour-1.1096361>  
Some not quite so flattering!

***Paul Binks***

# ***Pool Sessions***

## ***Are we offering what members want?***

The pool sessions are decided by the committee during committee meetings. It is often hard to judge how many open sessions we should offer and whether there is anything else that members would like including on the pool calendar. If you have any suggestions then please let one of the committee members know

***RCC Committee***

# ***EQUIPMENT RECALL***



After three years of being quartermaster I have decided to step down, as a result of this we need all the club kit returning before Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> November so a stock check can be performed could everyone please check to make sure all kit is returned

***Many Thanks  
Graham Kingaby***

**NOTE:** In time honoured Ribble Canoe Club tradition the job is being passed onto another Graham – Graham Eccles. (We don't like too much change)

Reminder: If you want to borrow club equipment and take it away from the Hand & Dagger you must contact the quartermaster to book it first [quartermaster@ribblecanooclub.co.uk](mailto:quartermaster@ribblecanooclub.co.uk)

**Do we have a volunteer to take on the role of RCC Treasurer?** John Kington is also standing down at the AGM if you are interested/willing to take on the role then please contact Terry Maddock Tel: 077 333 86704 [chairman@ribblecanooclub.co.uk](mailto:chairman@ribblecanooclub.co.uk)

# ***Editors Bit***

The phrase “Be careful what you wish for” comes to mind as I sit and write my contribution to this edition of the Newsletter. In the last one I made an appeal for articles as we had received almost nothing from members. This time we have received so much that we have decided to leave some for the next edition rather than produce a “Bumper Issue.”

It is a very nice position and I would like to thank all those of you who have sent articles even if they have been held over until next issue. Thanks especially to Gary Lord for his front page article about his “Greek Odyssey” even if it was prompted by my appeal in my last Editors Bit. All I can say is the time spent on the back row reading Motor Cycle News was time well spent. Unfortunately we can’t guarantee that new members will receive a sailing trip around the Greek Islands as part of their membership package.

Thanks to Gill Woodhouse for her “Reasons to be Cheerful” article as a follow on from the one from Suzanne in the last edition. We have another one ready for the January edition, so we need another Lady to write another one for the March edition so that we keep up the Cheerful Momentum. If this doesn’t happen I have something up my sleeve to counter all this cheerfulness with an article entitled “Reasons to be Grumpy” you have been warned.

Thanks to Mark Green for his article about his take on the recent trip down the “Rocky Rothay.”

Thanks to Roy Booth for the article about the Pyranha Fest. I think I need to insert a small correction to his remarks about the fact that the Greens “Faff.” In our world it is called careful considered preparation for the trip in hand. Eating Bacon Butties and drinking tea whilst having a marital spat is definitely a good preparation for a paddle.

Thanks to Paul Binks for his articles on the Bala Open Boat Symposium and his brief report on the Tyne Tour. I suspect that there will be a longer article in the next edition (Or Else!). It’s a good job I have actually been to the Tyne Tour in the past otherwise I wouldn’t have known that Barrasford is one place but has many spellings. It has for RCC members anyway. (Thank goodness for OS maps).

Thanks to Sarah Jones and Paula Sharples for their article on the Hilbre Island Race, it seems a bit weird reading stories of paddlers suffering from dehydration due to the warm conditions when I’m sat watching the rain, hail and thunder and lightning outside my window and wondering if the river will be too high to paddle tomorrow. Not to worry the forecast overnight frost will sort things out.

**Dates and Deadlines:** The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. 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)

# Chairman's Chat

The year keeps on turning and we're back at the pool and at Halton. It sounds like the Tyne Tour was a blast again this year. I believe a composite article is being set up to go in the next edition of this mag. There were many Ribble paddlers there and quite a few Ribble winners in terms of trophies and in terms of personal achievements. Just have to wait for the article to get details. Now the white water season's upon us, a lot of our newer paddlers are discovering the excitement of river running and that glowing feeling when fear is faced and overcome – big-time.

Members often wax lyrical on our Forum about what a great club this is. The front line in making this club what it is, must be the dedicated coaches who give up so much time, not inconsiderable expense, and a fair amount of nerve to support up-and-coming members. It's a responsibility not taken lightly and yet there they are week after week giving support and encouragement. Yes, they appear to enjoy it most of the time, but we mustn't let that enjoyment detract from the tremendous amount of work etc. that the coaches put in. And, of course, it helps when our newer paddlers are such bonzer gals and geezers and obviously enjoy to the full their new sport. I know that most thank their supporters at the time and on the forum etc. That must make the effort worthwhile so please don't stop ☺ .

I hope you're coming to the Presentation Night at the H&D on Tuesday 19 November. Sean McGrath from Wild Water at Carlisle will be presenting certificates to successful members at 1, 2 and 3 Star levels. There's food provided free for members who were on the courses and the coaches who coached them. Hangers on and family supporters will have to pay, though. So far we've got 42 booked on for food. If you want food and haven't booked, please book on the Forum before the end of this week (Fri 15 Nov). I haven't actually sorted out what exactly the food will be or what Martin Landlord will charge the club, but I'm hoping for £6 or less.

That brings us on to the Christmas Meal at the H&D on 17 December. Mr Landlord hasn't produced a menu or agreed a price yet – are you noticing a pattern here? However, if you want a place and haven't booked yet, then I'm sorry but you're too late. We've already got 67 booked on and the limit was 60. It's a three course meal and the price last year was £16 – that's all I know so far. When I went in the H&D last week, Martin bobbed down and hid behind the bar. I'm hoping he's got the menu this week.

It's time now to be thinking ahead to the AGM next February. Whaaat!! There's loads of time (I hear you say). But don't forget you need to submit any proposals in writing by 31 December if you want those proposals to be considered at the AGM. The same goes for voting for members to win one of our many awards presented at the AGM. I think the Pic of the Year award may be missed this year as so few photos were posted onto the Forum gallery. Of course there's the pictures submitted to the magazine. I'll see if the situation can be rescued in time and try and improve the situation for next year.

See you out and about or at the H&D. **Or at the NW BCU ACM on Sat 23 November at Halton – details are on the Forum. It would be good to get as many Ribble Members there as possible as it's our own Pat who's worked so hard (and Norman) to get this development at Halton sorted – and it is our own back yard.**

**Terry Maddock**  
[Chairman@ribblecanoecub.co.uk](mailto:Chairman@ribblecanoecub.co.uk)

# 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
22 Nov	Open	N/A	Debra Bookbinder	Paula Sharples
29 Nov	Slalom	Mark Shaw	Rachel Body	Gareth Jones
6 Dec	Open	N/A	Sarah Jones	Terry Maddock
13 Dec	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Graham Kingaby	Allan Hacking
20 Dec	Dumbongo	Gareth Jones	Terry Maddock	Gareth Jones
3 Jan	Open	N/A	Matt Aspden	Gareth Jones
10 Jan	Rolling	Allan Hacking	Adam Fielder	Allan Hacking
17 Jan	Rolling	Allan Hacking	Rick Turner	Allan Hacking
24 Jan	Rolling	Allan Hacking	Tony Morgan	Allan Hacking
31 Jan	Open	N/A	Albert Risely	Suzanne Thomas
7 Feb	Open	N/A	Will Body	John Hooper
14 Feb	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Paul Smith	Allan Hacking
21 Feb	Open	N/A	Brian Petherwick	Terry Maddock
28 Feb	Sea Skills	Paula Sharples	Bruce Carter	Paula Sharples
7 Mar	Open	N/A	Bill Turner	John Kington
14 Mar	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Sarah Jones	Allan Hacking
21 Mar	Open	N/A	Debra Bookbinder	Graham Kingaby
28 Mar	Sea Skills	Paula Sharples	Terry Maddock	Paula Sharples
04 Apr	Open	N/A	Paul Binks	Graham Eccles
11 Apr	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	John Kington	Allan Hacking
18 Apr	GOOD FRIDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A
25 Apr	Open	N/A	Graham Kingaby	John Hooper

**Prices for pool sessions:** Rolling Course £20 plus club membership. **All other sessions £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 at 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***

See Albert or Kath Risely to borrow a book or DVD.

## **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  
The Knot Book - NEW

## **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  
The Outer Hebrides Sea Kayaking Guidebook

### **Sea Kayak Navigation**

Complete Book of Sea Kayaking  
Sea Kayaker Deep Trouble

DVD - Sea Kayak Rescues  
DVD - Sea Kayak with Gordon Brown -  
Instructional Journey along Skye Coast  
DVD - This is the Sea 1  
DVD - This is the Sea 2  
DVD - This is the sea 3  
DVD - This is the Sea 4  
DVD - Performance Sea Kayaking-  
Skills, rolling & rescue techniques  
DVD - BCU 3 & 4 Star Leaders Sea Kayaking  
DVD Sea Kayaking in Wales (conservation) - **NEW**  
DVD Sea Kayak Essentials Volumes 1 & 2 **NEW**  
Intermediate & Adv. Boat Handling Skills  
Safety & Rescue Skills

### **Canoeing/Open Boating**

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

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

## **Whitewater**

Canoe & Kayak Guide to North West England  
English White Water  
Scottish White Water  
White Water Lake District (2 COPIES)  
White Water Kayaking  
White Water Safety & Rescue (2 copies)  
Weir Wisdom  
Many Rivers to Run  
The Playboater's Handbook 2  
Whitewater Paddling (Strokes & Concepts) – **NEW**  
L'Eau Vive - **NEW**

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

## **Rolling**

Bombproof Roll and Beyond!  
Eskimo Rolling for Survival

DVD - This is the Roll  
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  
DVD - Ladies Day at Washburn August 2013

## **Expeditions/Adventure/Action**

On Celtic Tides  
Dancing with Waves  
The Canoe Boys  
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	Touring 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		☺																	Quartermaster
Graham Kingaby		☺					☺												
John Hooper		☺					☺												
John Kington		Treasurer								☺				☺					Treasurer
Mark Shaw		☺													☺	☺	☺	☺	Competition Secretary
Norman & Pat Green		☺						☺											Newsletter
Pat Green		Membership																	Membership Secretary
Paula Sharples		☺																	
Suzanne Thomas		☺																	Club Welfare Officer
Terry Maddock		Chairman	☺		☺	☺	☺	☺											Chairman

**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**

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

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.

## NOVEMBER

*Tues 19 Nov  
Star award presentation night  
Hand and Dagger*

Saturday 23 Nov  
BCU North West Region ACM

Halton Rapids. More details are published on RCC Forum & NW Region Website including provision for paddling, food etc.  
Contact: Pat Green

## DECEMBER

*Tues 17 Dec  
RCC Christmas meal  
Hand and Dagger*

*Sun 22 Dec  
Binky Boo's Christmas Do  
Paddle & Picnic  
Contact Paul Binks*

*Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Holly Day at Halton  
Paddle & Pies (mincemeat)  
Contact Norman & Pat Green*

## JANUARY

*Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan  
RCC Committee Meeting  
H&D 7:00pm*

*Tues 21 Jan  
"A year in the life of Ribble  
Canoe Club"*

## FEBRUARY

*Sat 8 Feb  
Club Ceilidh  
Tickets can be bought from  
Albert & Kath Risely or  
Norman & Pat Green*

## APRIL

*Sun 13 Apr  
London Kayakathon  
Some club members  
participating  
Contact: Alan Blackburn*

## MAY

*Sat 24 – Sat 31 May  
Possibly a Beginners Sea  
Kayaking Trip  
Contact: Roy Booth*