

TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



January/February 2012

‘Tis the Season to be Jolly With a festive Trip on the River Rothay

Kath Risely



Paddlers: Paul, Sam, Will, Rachel, Matt, Albert, Pat, Norman, Mark, Adam, Gary F, Andy, Debbie, Roy B & Roy G. Bruce & Alice (two of Roy G's friends) also joined us.

With a busy family Christmas planned, we had expected to spend Christmas Eve peeling vegetables until Binky Boo suggested dipping our blades in the river Rothay. The chores were quickly abandoned and replaced with the packing of paddling gear and the anticipation of a grand day out.

After several days of heavy rain coupled with snow melt we expected high river levels and so I decided to wimp out and provide bank support. This was particularly necessary as 'Pat's Cafe & Mobile Catering Service' had abandoned her duties and taken to the water instead. However, this time of year is traditionally the season of miracles and a tray of freshly baked sausage rolls found its way into our car, so maybe she hadn't totally shirked her responsibilities after all!

With car shuttles organised at Halton, we arrived at the 'get in' at Grasmere, to find that the river wasn't particularly high and I must admit I wished I had taken my boat. With just the usual amount of Ribble faffing everyone was on the water for the paddle through Grasmere village.



Either there wasn't much else of interest happening that day, or the group must have looked particularly photogenic, because they were photographed from the bridge by passing walkers and from guests on a hotel terrace as they paddled by.



By the time I had walked the dog around the village, driven the car to White Moss car park, then wrestled with the ticket machine for a while, the group was arriving as I got down to the river. We staked our claim to a picnic bench then after a quick jog back to the car with Pat (back on duty!) we collected Christmas hats and goodies for lunch. Everyone had chipped in with a variety of food – the previously mentioned sausage rolls, mince pies, cakes and hot mulled wine put everyone in the festive spirit.



Once suitably fed and refreshed the paddlers headed across the lake to continue their trip. Not before Binky made the classic mistake of getting into his canoe before un-tying it from the tree that it had been secured to while we had our festive lunch.



I managed to get photos at Pelter Bridge rapid.



Then meet up again at the hotel weir where there was some great surfing, a few wobbles,

some effective support strokes and a huge amount of fun!



The trip had passed without incident and with only one unlucky swim at the stepping stones. By the time everyone was back at Waterhead the rain and wind were picking up once again, but we all agreed it had definitely been the best way to spend Christmas Eve – and not a sprout in sight! Thanks to Binky for organising it and roll on next year as this could become a new Ribble tradition.

Kath Risely

Paddling with Friends

Roy Booth

For me this is what the Ribble Canoe Club is all about and a typical example of this was 17th December 2011

The web site was awash with trips, well 3 really. An intro to moving water, a grade 3/4 river trip and an open invite to Halton. As it was the intro trip never came off due to the weather and stuff so I joined up with the Halton group. I did notice that some people were taking them 14 foot plus barges with them glad they did as they supplied some of the entertainment for the day.

So in no particular order here are some of the things that make a day out with the Ribble such fun.

First up comes Binky, after unsuccessfully trying to get his barge down the rapids he then tries to rearrange the boulders with his buttocks, may not seem funny at the time but watching him hobble round Brookbank holding said buttock did make me chuckle.

Secondly Graham, he lost his MOJO big style on his last trip but with some gentle coaching from his friends he has got some of it back (look after him you guys).



Next, Big Adam strutting his stuff and daring anyone else within ear shot to try and better him and also coming up with more magical ways to get people to push themselves along. When you are in the presence of this man you cannot help but have fun.



Rachel Body, or Princess Leah as she is becoming affectionately known as. Fine voice on her this one must have if she can attract my attention from 10 yards away on a rapid (I am deaf you know) PS less posing and more paddling.



Which brings us to Will, or Han Solo. I think his hoodies says 'unsinkable'. Not in a canoe you're not, but a fine self-rescue did make me smile. Good to know you are human after all.



The last from the Star Wars theme is Darth Vader (aka Allan Hacking), did not see much of him today spent all his time marshalling his minions ready for the final battle of canoe versus kayak me thinks.

Ahh! The lovable Pat what can I say but do not play dodgems in a kayak you will only get wet (again), and Please Please Please miss out the 'Oh My God' off 'Swimmer' as just 'Swimmer' gets my attention just fine 'Oh My God Swimmer' frightens the C**P out of me.



PS your buttie van is getting legendary status.

Paul, the elder Muppet, when I said make the next eddy I did not mean dead tight and backwards below the groyne but well done anyhow.

A lesson learned. Always look out for Michael the youngest Muppet as I found him sat behind me in an eddy saying 'I saw you do this did not know if I could make it but gave it a go' (WHAT). At least he must have forgiven me for the bad swim he took on the Leven some time ago.

Matt the splash, no amount of badgering could get him to give us a demo of his splashing braces. He stayed dry and comfortable all day (and I missed the cakes gutted).



**Roy Booth
AKA Robofish**

Dumbongo 2011: Triumph of the Dark Side

***Paul Binks Pictures courtesy of:
David Cardwell AKA "Water Wheels"***

A shadow has been cast once more over Ribble Canoe Club. Last year the spirit of Dumbongo made it snow and much ice cometh so no paddling could take place over the Christmas period.



This year he sent his dark angels to do battle. The Dark Side, captained by Alan Blackburn and The Phantom Menace captained by Graham 'you can't keep me down' Kingaby pitted their limited skills against Leia and the Droids, shepherded by Rachel Body and the Naboo Tribe led by Jack Turner.



Valiantly they fought from one battle to the next; From Endor Assault (raft race) to Pod Racing (boat swap race).



As the games progressed possession of the leader board kept changing sides between the dark and the side of light and justice. At the end, by a margin of 1 point, the Dark Side was victorious. Gloating in victory Captain Blackburn declared to return next year to retain this accolade, the wooden head of Dumbongo; unless his wife mistakes it for firewood and burns it before then.



Paul Binks

The “Rammy Run”

Albert Risely, Debra Bookbinder, Paul Binks



Group 1: Author Albert Risely

I had not done this river before, but having paddled at Burrs many times, my expectations for this trip weren't great. Even though the river level at Burrs was good when I arrived, I was totally unprepared for the scale of some of the sections.

After getting changed and shuttling up to the get-in at Nuttall Park in Ramsbottom, the mass group of Ribble paddlers posed for a team photo before Allan split us up into groups.

Our group was led by John Kington, with Norman and Mark Green, Billy T and myself.

It was decided that as our group contained collectively the most experience, we should be the 'Advance' group and scout the river. After a short muddy carry across the park we were soon on the water and warming up. I noted that the flow at the narrow section we launched on was about "Washburn" speed, which is plenty fast enough for me!

Having decided our paddling order with John at the front, our group set off. We soon came to the first feature, a long grade 3 section which was a revelation, and put a big smile on my face which lasted for the rest of the trip.

In his briefing before setting off, Allan had suggested that, as the trip was fairly short we should make the most of every feature, catching as many breakouts as we could.

What?? B****r that!! I certainly didn't have time to look for eddies on that first section, as I was too focussed on staying upright as I looked for the best line down.

More sections of the same quality soon followed, and I had to admit to myself that this river was rather good fun!

In the short breaks between tasty rapids, the scenery was delightful, ranging from wooded gorges to impressive decaying industrial heritage.

We were now fairly flying along, and so started to spend a little longer in the eddies as we waited for the following groups to catch up. They didn't. We were passed by another (non Ribble) group which was soon out of sight around the tight bends.

The severity of the rapids had eased by now, but there was still plenty to enjoy. As we approached the restaurant spanning the river at Summerseat I saw a group of paddlers on the river bank with throw lines, and broke out to ask them if this was a drill. "No, for real" said one, pointing to the pinned boat which I had totally failed to spot as we approached.

This was the group which had passed us earlier, but now one of their number had escaped his boat but it was wedged upright but full of water against a rock in the middle of the river.

Mark had a couple of attempts at dislodging the boat by paddling into it from upstream, but it was held fast, and we left them to retrieve it by fixing a rope to it. They did not have any success, they were still there when Group 2 arrived. They admitted defeat and this time accepted the offer of help.

Somehow we managed to overshoot the agreed lunch spot below Summerseat and stopped further downstream at a bridge for lunch. As we enjoyed our sandwiches Pat Green appeared on the bridge parapet and told us that our following groups were OK and had stopped further upstream.

Safe in the knowledge that all was well, we headed off down toward Burrs.

Our only "moment" came when Billy T lost it coming into a breakout. Fortunately, Norman instantly invented a technique not yet known to the BCU, we are calling it a "Pre-emptive Eskimo Rescue". It involves placing your boat strategically in anticipation of a capsizing paddler, this enables the soon to be stricken paddler to use the deck of said boat and gracefully flick back up without getting wet.

The rest of trip was quite uneventful, with fewer features, so we kept ourselves entertained by playing polo with a couple of old footballs we found caught in the reeds.

Arriving at the weir at Burrs and getting out to portage around it, we watched as our abandoned footballs were swept over the weir then held in the stopper at the bottom. Watching this confirmed our decision to walk around the big drop as the boiling stopper extended about three metres beyond the bottom of the weir.

The run down Burrs was faster than normal, but most of the features were washed out, so few opportunities to have a last play before getting off. All in all a great trip, and one I will look forward to doing again

Group 2: Author Debra Bookbinder

The group comprised of, Adam Fielder, two of the Amigos (Jack & Anthony), the Muppets plus father (Michael, Adam & Paul Smith) & myself, but before long we grew...!

The first twenty minutes were pretty uneventful, folk getting warmed up and used to the flow. Gorge section fine but no sign of the advanced group or the rear group...

I saw a boat stuck and thought it may be some of our advanced party so went along to help.

I realised it wasn't our group so asked which club they are from and heard the heart sinking words 'we're not from a club, we're self-taught'.

They had no idea how to rescue the pinned boat. In come the amigos and showed them how it's done.



It transpired they were encouraged to get on the river by two more experienced paddlers who had then abandoned them.

They had no white water safety rescue training.

We carried on our way but then came across the same group waiting for a swimmer to sort out his boat. The swimmer was tired and cold.

At this point Adam felt it was time for us to 'adopt' them and help them get down safely. They were extremely relieved at the offer.

There were further swims but all handled quickly and efficiently.

We got to the Burrs and decided not to run the steps as there was not sufficient safety cover.



As we got off we came across some dudes gloating they had run the steps and suggesting we were somehow 'nesh' for not doing so. I learnt they were the 'experienced paddlers' who don't like clubs who had encouraged then abandoned their less experienced friends. I'm not surprised they don't like clubs, if I'd had one in my hand I may have taken a swing at them.

It made me realise how lucky I am to be involved in a club in which safety is so integral, a part of what we do, we hardly notice it until we get a comparison.

P.S. The steps were at the same level when I paddled with the Shufflers on New Year's Eve but this time there was safety with signals from the bank and experienced paddlers to check out obstructions etc., so I got to run it HUGE. As was the smile on my face!

Group three: Author Paul Binks

Whilst other groups used words like 'bimble', 'sojourn', 'pleasant day out', our group were heard uttering 'awesome', 'epic', 'deluge', 'torrent'. After all this was a Development Trip!; one in which some people expect to help others out, namely Allan Hacking, Paul Wicks and Mark Gardner; and some people, me, Matt Aspden and Graham Kingaby, expect to need some help and possibly get wet: we weren't disappointed!

Allan picked the sides and like the proverbial fat lad in playground football, I got picked last.

I'd done the Rammy twice before and had an average 'un-seated rider' rate of 2 per trip, I was determined to do it clean this time.

Graham and Matt hadn't done the run before and were happy and chirpy at the start; I tried not to burst their bubble just yet but warned them that this wasn't going to be a walk in the park.

I'm not going to retell every swim in fine inglorious detail. For me this type of trip is about pushing yourself in conditions that can be challenging in the safe knowledge that you've got at least two or three others who are actively looking out for you, mentoring you on the way down and don't mind missing a great bit of water to stop and play on because they're chasing either you or your boat. It's having that confidence that allows me to loosen up a bit and go for it.

Rather than having a series of discreet features with calm water top and bottom the Rammy in spate has long sections of fast water with submerged rocks and often over

hanging trees that for the developing novice doesn't seem to let up.

There are eddies, some, big and some not so big and most with strong eddy lines that can catch you out.

It's this combination I think that makes it a challenging run and a good one.

It's safe to say that Graham felt challenged. Whether he felt developed or not depends on when you ask him. Whilst on the run he did get a couple of knocks of confidence, he also lost half a shoe and a paddle, which didn't help. Early on in the trip he did get stuck in a stopper and tried and successfully rolled, but unfortunately couldn't get out whilst still in his boat and had to pull the deck. Whilst he didn't get out of trouble still seated he did try and also experienced the reality of trying to do these things on a real river.

I, think I, offered Allan, Paul and Mark their own development opportunity by getting well and truly pinned on a rock.

Whilst I know I could have been in a much worse scenario I was actually stuck firm but in a safe and stable position for about 15 minutes. This allowed me to stay calm whilst Paul and Allan came up with an exit strategy. This involved Allan paddling to the eddy below the rock I was on, helping me out of the boat over his shoulders, dislodging the boat using ropes and successfully launching me again.

After this Mark reunited Matt with his boat, as he'd hit me on the way down and flipped over, we had a coffee break to gather our thoughts and recouped our energies before the final thankfully uneventful stretch back to Burrs and the most welcome brews made by Pat.

Did we enjoy it? Yes, one of us more so after the event than during it I think. Did we develop and learn? Yes we did.

Would we do it again? Of course!

Paul Binks

Stone Mini Slalom Races

Mark Shaw

For those new (or not so new) to the competitive disciplines of our sport, slalom racing is about negotiating a series of poles in the fastest time possible. Races are normally held on moving water of various grades but in order to start in the sport the grade of water is usually fairly easy.



The river Trent that flows through Stone in Staffordshire is one such river that is perfect for beginners to try their hand at slalom.

Stafford & Stone Canoe Club run a series of Winter slalom races called the Stone Minis prior to the start of the main slalom season in March to get everyone race prepared.

The races are handicapped in such a way that a talented beginner should have an equal chance of achieving the same result as the top Premier paddlers - but they do have to be talented as the Premier paddlers are no push over.

The course at Stone is about a one and a half hour drive from Preston and so is one of three courses that are within easy reach for Ribble Canoe Club paddlers (the other two being Marple near Stockport and Wagon Lane near Bingley).

The three races this year will be held on Sunday 15th January, Sunday 29th January, and Sunday 19th February. Entries are taken on the day up till 10am and free practice is available till 10:30am for a prompt race start at 11:00am. You can enter the race in whatever boat you usually paddle – so you don't have to find a slalom boat just to enter.

The cost is £7 per entry unless another family member is also racing in which case their entry is reduced to £4. A new club house has just been completed and so the facilities available should be vastly superior to those previously provided. All day catering is also available on site at a reasonable price including home-made cakes.

Further details can either be obtained from www.staffordandstoneecc.co.uk or by emailing competition_secretary@ribblecanoeclub.co.uk.

So who fancies giving slalom a try? You never know, you might be the second Ribble Canoe Club paddler to get your name on the Stone Mini Cup.

Mark Shaw
Competition Secretary

WANTED!

**BRAVE MEN FOR INTREPID VOYAGE THROUGH
MONSTER INFESTED WATERS POPULATED BY
AGGRESSIVE SKIRT WEARING NATIVES
CANNOT GUARANTEE SAFE RETURN - WAGES
NIL – FOOD MINIMAL – ALCOHOL COMPULSORY**



Capt Fabulous and the ill fated 1958 Burrs First Descent Expedition, only the Captain was to return following the infamous broken weir beasting incident
Image courtesy of Times Publishing

**EXPEDITION TO COMMENCE CIRCA JUNE IN
THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2012**

**APPLICATIONS IN WRITING TO EXPEDITION
LEADER CAPTAIN FABULOUS R.G.S.R.**

C/O RIBBLE CANOE CLUB

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TYNE TOUR

Sarah Jones & Paul Binks



This was one trip that we didn't want to miss with it being Gareth's homeland. It was our first proper weekend away in our camper van so we took a long weekend to visit Family and do some sightseeing along Hadrian's Wall

Where we camped –

[http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=caws+gap&hl=en&ll=55.035115,-2.43549&spn=0.000722,0.001971&sll=53.800651,-4.064941&sspn=24.512336,64.599609&vpsrc=6&hq=caws+gap&t=h&z=20&layer=c&cbll=55.035115,-2.43549&panoid=JDPLYaojLuQ_h7MHOEbtpw&cbp=12,344,12,,0,-3,21\)](http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=caws+gap&hl=en&ll=55.035115,-2.43549&spn=0.000722,0.001971&sll=53.800651,-4.064941&sspn=24.512336,64.599609&vpsrc=6&hq=caws+gap&t=h&z=20&layer=c&cbll=55.035115,-2.43549&panoid=JDPLYaojLuQ_h7MHOEbtpw&cbp=12,344,12,,0,-3,21))

We arrived at Hexham early, about 11.30am; the camp was on the green next to the river. As we had a camper we got split from the rest of our group and had to park in the golf club car park. This turned out to be a great spot as it was a lot quieter than camping on the green with all the students, and provided us with a private bar and clean toilets!

The weather at the weekend was sunny and dry, but cold.

Our van was warm even though we had two frosty mornings, others in the group had to buy extra duvets or sleeping bags and Sam's

frozen kit on top of the canoe did not look very appealing on Sunday morning!



On Saturday the plan was that Allan and Rachel were racing from Barrasford to Hexham (7 miles) in the Topo duo. A big well done for coming in 3rd.



The newbies (me, Gareth, Jane and Matt) were to start at Wark and finish 7 miles later at Barrasford where the others stopped for lunch before completing the course back to Hexham.



The river levels were quite low as there had been no rain for a while making some of the rapids rocky. I enjoyed the flat sections but then it got scary on the fast rapid bits, having only done Burrs before the rapids seemed to go on forever. I ended up swimming on one of the rapids and had to be rescued by Paul and Tony (with his throw line). Gareth was doing well for once with no swims on Saturday! It was lunchtime when we got to Barrasford but just before the get out, we had the hardest section of the day, which we all did successfully (ish).

That evening we walked into Hexham for fish'n'chips and then went over to Hexham Park where there was a big bonfire and firework display. It looked like the whole town had come out to see the fireworks (they were free). They were great, lasted for ages and we had a good spot to view them, straight after that we made our way to the leisure centre for the ceilidh.

This was great fun, everyone was wearing wellies and their club t-shirts/ hoodies. It started off fairly organised, but then by the end, the dance floor got crowded and everyone was making up their own moves (Rob & Matt) and it was chaos!

On Sunday morning it was a relaxed start to the day, all meeting up and having breakfast in the golf club.

We then debated on who was still paddling that day and which route we would do.

The South Tyne wasn't an option as it was too low, so the plan was to take us newbies from Barrasford to Hexham, having to do the infamous Warden Gorge (grade 3/4 according to the guide sheets) along the way.

We were all feeling quite nervous about this, but in the end we agreed to do it, trusting the experienced paddlers who were trying to reassure us that it would be ok.

So we got to Barrasford, where we got on the water just above the rapids which we had completed successfully on Saturday. Gareth took a swim on a shallow rocky section just before the rapids, he then made it through the rapids and then, when entering an eddy across the other side (river left), he over edged it and swam again!

When it was my turn for the rapids I had to avoid an upturned canoe and some other kayakers, but I still made it through.

The rest of the morning went well, no other swims and I was trying not to think about what might be ahead. We had to keep our pace up as looking behind us there were 20-30 paddlers approaching, we managed to gain enough distance so we didn't get caught up in their group. There was a weir half way down and Nicky was impressed that we all came down it ok with minimal guidance, especially navigating the thicket at the exit. We then stopped for a bite to eat before the dreaded Warden Gorge.

On the approach to Wardens Gorge we were told a rough direction to head for and to just paddle. Which I tried to do with the big waves splashing my face. Then, all of a sudden, I was in and swimming. Luckily I managed to miss the big rocks and got to the side with help of another throw line.

I got back into my boat and carried onto the next bit of rapids getting through them fine. I learnt later that the second section was just as hard as the bit I had ended up swimming in. While all that was going on Gareth (who was just behind me) had managed to avoid me and the rocks to get through it safely.

Jane did well avoiding the rocks but then a kayaker got in her way at the end of the first section causing her to swim. Matt swam when breaking into the second section.

In the end all of the new recruits did two swims each over the weekend, not bad I think.

After the carnage we had a gentle mile (only 1?) long paddle back to Hexham.

The others then had to pack up and head off home but we had another night, staying in a pub car park (Hadrian's Hotel in Wall), it was OK and allowed campers to stay overnight if they ate/drank in the pub.

It was a welcome treat to be warm by the fire and to have a well-deserved drink.

I am so glad we did the gorge, and glad I didn't see what it was like before heading down it, otherwise I would have been more much nervous about doing it.

Thanks to everyone who lent out kit and encouraged us newbies into getting some confidence to paddle some bigger white stuff! It was a great weekend and can't wait until next year.

Sarah Jones

There are two sides to every story – this is Paul's version of events...

5 hours & 3 minutes

The one in which the novices get a spill and a thrill, Paul gets philosophical and everyone has a grand day out.

Venue: Tyne Tour, Hexham, 4- 6th Nov 2011

Participants: Roy 'The Van' Booth, Sarah and Gareth 'Nice Van' Jones, Matt 'Big Truck' Aspen, Allan 'Logistics Meister' Hacking, Richard 'Retro Gear' Nutter, Holly 'Arbunane Barbie wewehu Action man gerfarte Blue Underpants nananeno Cake wo Bye!' Marsh, Nicky & Tony 'Yes, she's our daughter' Marsh, Sam 'Hu? Na! Beer (and \or Bacon)' Binks, Rose 'I should never of agreed to camping in November' Binks, Rob 'The Bewildered' Harrison, Jane 'Boat Girl' Topping, Rachel 'Ever Enthusiastic' Body, Will 'Can paddle anything' Body, Paul 'Binky-boo' Binks.

Saturday 5th Nov: Wark to Hexham Green on the North Tyne

About 10:45; What a cracking day! Great bunch of people. Great weather, lovely scenery, fantastic river with variety of

interesting waves and drops for playing on and introducing the novices to.

Mainly kayaks but Sam and I in open boats.

People enjoying themselves, some nervous but gaining confidence. A couple of spills and thrills. My boat handling itself well on the water. Starting to stretch myself, making the odd mistake but learning.

Progressing down the river, drop novices off at Barrasford, have lunch, carry on. Various features negotiated well. Warden's Gorge! Nervous, apprehensive, lots of people about. Watched others, picked my line. Did it no problem, got to the bottom elated.

About 14:45: Loads of people about, kayak and open boats, people on the banks. Good atmosphere.

Big wave at the bottom of the gorge. The wave of legend!

Loads of people surfing it and playing around. My confidence levels high. Surf the wave?

Why not? No reason not, every reason to.
Let's give it a go.

Wave surprisingly empty. Started at the bottom of the tongue of water; should have started at the side and worked my way across. Boat pointing directly upstream, can feel the forces of the water on the boat and blade.

Develop plan of action. Moving slowly up against the current, making progress. Steady my position; knees firm, thighs against the thwart. Good edge on keeping the boat straight. Strong and long paddle stroke, quick flick at the end of the 'J', quick return.

Fully focused on the water, the boat, the physical effort, my position. The water forcing itself under the boat, the boat moving upstream with every stroke. Good progress now. Can just about make out voices; calls of encouragement. The wave draws near. Strong, long and purposeful paddle stroke, quick flick at the end of the 'J', quick return. On the wave. Front end of the boat clear of water. The boat feels light, no need to paddle. Water rushing over my blade; a simple movement of the blade and the boat reacts. No effort. Keep focused on the water but start to realize there are things in this world other than me, the boat and the water.

Look up, see people watching, cheering, and looking pleased. Take my eye off the moment. Boat overshoots the wave, nose dips, boat goes off to one side. Correct it but start to move off the wave. Moment passed. Drift back. Back in the world of others and other things.

About 14:48; Talk to people, discuss, relax. Head off back down stream. Start to reflect. An intense 3 minutes imprinted on my mind. Didn't know it was going to happen, didn't plan it; serendipity. It doesn't happen very often but it's happened before whilst boating; a mind freed from thought for 3 minutes. An intense feeling of presence in the moment; no mental chatter. A freedom that lasts as long as the memory lasts. Open Boat, open mind; the Zen of Canoe.

About 15:45; Reach camp, drag boats back, get changed. Fish and chips. Friends. Beer. Happy. Feel groggy the morning after. Worth it.

'He knows not where he's going, for the river [ocean] will decide, it's not the destination, it's the glory of the ride', The interesting thoughts of Edward Monkton, Zen Dog

Paul Binks

Booking Equipment

A reminder to any members wanting to borrow club equipment

Please remember to follow the standard booking procedure, which is:

Email Me (Any time before Tuesday evening) or ring me on a Monday evening
(see contacts page for address & telephone number)
Collect and return kit at H&D on a Tuesday evening

SIMPLE!



Happy Paddling - Graham Kingaby

Editor's Bit

NB. Please read the new paragraph "For Contributors"

I don't know if it's my constant moaning about lack of newsletter articles, but we seemed to have hit the jackpot for articles this time. Thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition.

There does seem to have been plenty of paddling activity lately, and I am happy to say I have been involved in some of it. Thankfully I have not needed to write about it since others have taken up the keyboard to do it instead. Having read the articles it seems that I missed much of what happened on the river.

My recollection of the Rammy Run is that it was exciting and challenging for the first couple of miles. This was not what I was expecting, but our group, which went down first, all seemed to cope well enough and not a swimmer was to be seen. This makes dull reading compared to the antics of the groups who followed us down. I am heartened to note that my advocated policy of not letting the truth get in the way of a good newsletter story is being followed by contributors.

In case you are wondering why Paul Bink's article about the Tyne Tour is constructed "a little differently" it is because he wanted it to be a little different in style from his previous articles. He also wanted to avoid the accusation that the Newsletter was becoming a "BINKY BLOG" as he had submitted such a lot of articles recently.

Thanks also to Mark Shaw our new Competition Secretary for updating us on the competitive discipline of Slalom. Ribble was once a well-represented club in the Slalom Scene, but over the years interest has waned.

This is a shame because paddling slalom competition, even at the lower divisions, is a great way to develop paddling skills even if you are not interested in becoming a top competitor.

Thanks to Alan Blackburn for the advert for his proposed trip to paddle the "Great Glen" in Scotland. If the amount of chat on the forum is anything to go on, I suspect there will be a very long newsletter article to follow for the July edition. (or else!)

For Contributors Please bear in mind that information you submit becomes a permanent written record in the archives of Ribble Canoe Club. This information can be viewed by anyone in the world who has Internet access. If you are writing about the details of a face to face conversation, or remarks made in the heat of the moment, you should first check that the information, if subsequently made public will not cause offence.

Dates and Deadlines The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 7th March at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on 21st March. We would appreciate all submissions by Wednesday 14th. Please send submissions by email, to newsletter@ribblecanoeclub.co.uk

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

Norman Green
newsletter@ribblecanoeclub.co.uk

AGM 2011

Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the Ribble Canoe Club AGM for the year ending 31st December 2011 will be held on Tuesday 21st February 2012 at The Hand & Dagger, Salwick at 7:30 for 8:00pm start for the following purposes:

1. To receive the Hon. Secretary's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2011.
2. To receive the Hon. Treasurer's report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2011
3. To receive the Competition Secretary's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2011
4. To receive the Hon. Chairman's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2011.
5. To elect Officers and Members to the General Committee.
6. To appoint auditors.
7. To discuss how we make it easier for people to pay their fees. For example, allow members to hand them over to a committee member on a Tuesday night at the H&D.
8. To discuss any other business
9. To present the Club Trophies

***By order of the Committee.
Paul Binks, Secretary***

Proposals

Under Item 5 the current General Committee members are:

Chairman	Terry Maddock *
General Secretary	Paul Binks
Membership Secretary	Brian Woodhouse
Treasurer	John Kington
Competition Secretary	Mark Shaw+
Quartermaster	Graham Kingaby+
Child Welfare Officer	Nina Sparks+
General Committee	Cynthia Conway > Ed Lefley Rache Body* Will Body * Gary Fishwick Katie Fishwick Wayne Lees>

Those marked * are due to retire by rotation (every 2 years) and being eligible offer themselves for re-election. Those marked + have been co-opted onto the committee during the year and now stand for election by the general meeting. Those marked > are standing down.

The following Committee Members are standing down at this AGM:

Wayne Lees
Cynthia Conway

The following Committee Members resigned during the year:

Richard Collins
Rick Turner

The following committee member standing for re-election

Terry Maddock
Rachel Body
Will Body

The following committee members have been co-opted on to the committee and are standing for election

Nina Sparks
Mark Shaw
Graham Kingaby

Top Tips

When considering going on a paddling trip, search the Environment Agency Web Site and find out if there is a river level gauge on the section you intend to paddle. With a little practice and experience you will be able to work out more accurately if it is going to be the right level for you. Below is the link to the gauge for the River Lune at Caton. This gives a fairly accurate idea of what the level is like at Halton.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/riverlevels/120708.aspx?stationId=5029>

When you find a web site gauge bookmark it on your computer for future reference, and consider sharing it on the Club Forum so we can all use the information.

Please send your top tips to
newsletter@ribblecanoeclub.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
20 Jan	Rolling	Gary Fishwick	Katy Fishwick	Nina Sparks
27 Jan	Rolling	Gary Fishwick	Adam Fishwick	Wayne Lees
3 Feb	Rolling	Gary Fishwick	David Nelson	William Body
10 Feb	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Adam Fielder	Terry Maddock
17 Feb	Open		Rick Turner	Paul Binks
24 Feb	Slalom	Mark Shaw	Graham Kingaby	Mark Shaw
2 Mar	Sea Safety	Allan Hacking	Adam Fishwick	Brian Woodhouse
9 Mar	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Albert Risely	John Kington
16 Mar	Open		David Nelson	Graham Kingaby
23 Mar	Youth Session	Nina Sparks	Mark Buttle	Nina Sparks

Please note prices for pool sessions:

Rolling Course £20 plus club membership. Freestyle £5. All other sessions £4.

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

Chairman's Chat

Here comes the Annual General Meeting again. It only seems a year since.....etcetc. Try your hardest to be there, on Tuesday 21 February at the Hand & Dagger at 7.30pm for a prompt start of the formal part of the meeting at 8.00pm.

I say formal, but really we do try and keep things as easy going as possible. You've probably been to other organisations' AGMs where it's all run very formally, very smoothly and utterly boring. We don't do that.

Some years, just to liven things up a bit the Chairman forgets to bring his Annual Report, or the trophies get left at the engravers and we have to award "air trophies" - the antics your Committee get up to just to keep you amused! AND you get garlic bread, chicken leek and mushroom pie with veg (or vegetarian option), and a warm mince pie or equivalent – all for £3, subsidised by your club.

After the "formal" AGM, we award trophies to the deserving and have a raffle. Food is normally served at about 9.00pm. It could be earlier if no-one asks awkward questions during the meeting or later if Roy Garrioch's there ☺ .

All donations of prizes for the raffle are greatly appreciated, so please feel free to bring along a bottle, choccies, canoeing related items, or anything else that someone may appreciate winning in a raffle.

Please not that prize you won last year and took because it was the last one left but didn't really want and possibly can't even work out what it is.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year – it certainly looked busy on the Trips and Events section of the Website Forum. Thanks to all who came to the Dinner & Disco at the Newdrop near Ribchester and to the Festive Meal at the Hand & Dagger. I think both went very well with 28 at the former and 59 at the latter.

Thanks to Debbie Dowe for organising the Dinner & Disco this year and for the past many years. Unfortunately she has decided it's time for someone else to take over the organisation of that event and so we need a keen volunteer for next year.

Regular Tuesday meetings at the Hand & Dagger are very well attended these days with in the order of twenty to thirty members there from about 7.00pm till about 9.30pm. The noise is wonderful.

I look forward to seeing you there or at the AGM. Don't forget the AGM's for all Members, even if you've only just joined.

Terry Maddock

Tel: 077 333 86704

Chairman@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

Ribble CC Library

To borrow a book or video, contact Albert & Kath Risely (alberttrisely@aol.com) or see them at the Hand & Dagger. Donations of books or videos are always welcome.

Technique:

BCU Handbook
Practical Guide to Kayaking
Canoeing & Kayaking
William Nealy's "Kayak"
Bombproof Roll and Beyond!
Eskimo Rolling for Survival
White Water Safety & Rescue
Weir Wisdom
Canoe & Kayak Games
The Playboater's Handbook 2
Book of Sea Kayaking
Sea Kayak Navigation
Path of the Paddle
Open Canoe Technique
Rowing it Alone
Handbook of Survival at Sea
BCU Coaching Handbook
Sea Safety: Complete Guide
White Water Kayaking
The Art of Freestyle
Sea Kayaker Deep Trouble

Guidebooks:

English White Water
Scottish White Water
White Water Lake District
An Atlas of the English Lakes
Canal Companion: Cheshire Ring
Welsh Sea Kayaking
Touring 100 Paddles in England
Scottish Sea Kayak Trail
Northern England & IOM Sea Kayaking
Yorkshire Rivers

General:

The Rough Guide to Weather
The Liquid Locomotive
Many Rivers to Run
Working out of Doors with Young People
More Than Activities

Expeditions:

Blue Water Summer – Pacific Coastal Adventure
Travels with a Kayak
Whit Descher
On Celtic Tides
Chris Duff
Blazing Paddles
Brian Wilson
Dancing with Waves
Brian Wilson
Paddling to Jerusalem
David Aaronovitch
The Last River
Todd Balf
Paddle to the Arctic
Don Starkey

Canoeing across Canada
Gary & Joanie McGuffin

The Canoe Boys
Sir Alastair Dunnnett

Odyssey among the Inuit
Jonathan Waterman

Barbed Wire & Babushkas
Paul Grogan

Rapids (a novel)

DVDs:

Tony Morgan - Grand Canyon
LVM Lunch Video Magazine
Without a Paddle (13)
Whitewater Kayaking

The Cockleshell Heroes (U)

Mags Brayfield in Nepal

Tatshenshini/Alsek 2007

Mountain River Movie
By Michael Allender

Jackson Kayak Promo

It's Different Every Time
Halton Rapids
Norman Green

Fort William 2005/06 Trip

Thistle Float Your Boat
RCC Scotland trip 2007 & 2008
Norman Green

Locks and Quays
Featuring Ribble Canoe Club

The Politics Show
Featuring Ribble Canoe Club

Open Canoeing
Reg Blomfield

EJ's Rolling and Bracing

This is the Sea - 1st Ever Action
Sea Kayak Video

The Call of the River - 100
years of Whitewater Adventure
(USA)

Sea Kayak with Gordon Brown
- Instructional Journey along
Skye Coast

Open Canoe Demo

Canoe Wales (WCA)

Extreme Sea Safety Advice -
RNLI

The Safety CD - RNLI

Path of the Paddle - Solo

Glenmore Lodge (Promo)

Revenge of the Fat Cat

Tay Descent 2011
Norman Green

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

Ribble CC development trips are in **bold**

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

Other Ribble CC events are in *italic*.

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

JANUARY

Fri Jan 20
Rolling course – Fulwood Leisure Centre
Continues Jan 27 & Feb 3
Contact: Gary Fishwick

Sat 21 Jan
10:00 – 16:00
beginners trip
Contact: Roy Booth

Fri 27 Jan
20:50 – 22:20
Rolling course Pt 2 - Fulwood leisure centre

Sun 29 Jan
09:00 – 16:00
Stone Mini Slalom #2 - Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0EX

FEBRUARY

Wed Feb 1
19:00 – 21:00
Coaching Forum - Hand & Dagger

Fri 3 Feb
20:50 – 22:20
Rolling course Pt 3 - Fulwood leisure centre

Sat 4 Feb
08:30 – 17:00
Development Trip - Upper Lune
Contact: Rick Turner

Tue 7 Feb
18:00 – 21:30
New Members Night - Hand & Dagger

Fri Feb 10
20:50 – 22:20
Paddle Skills Pool Session - Fulwood Leisure Centre
Contact: Allan Hacking

Fri Feb 17
20:50 – 22:20
Open pool session – Fulwood leisure centre

Sun Feb 19
Beginners Trip – Location to be confirmed
Contact: Will Body

Sun 19 Feb
09:00 – 16:00
Stone Mini Slalom #3 - Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0EX

Tue Feb 21
19:30 – 22:00
Ribble Canoe Club AGM
Hand and Dagger, Treales Road, nr Kirkham
7:30pm for 8:00pm Start

Fri 24 Feb
20:50 – 22:20
Slalom Pool Session – Fulwood Leisure Centre
Contact: Mark Shaw

MARCH

Fri 2 Mar
20:50 – 22:20
Sea kayaking Safety pool session
Contact: Allan Hacking

Tue 6 Mar
18:00 – 21:30
New Members Night - Hand & Dagger

Wed 7 Mar
19:00 – 21:00
Committee meeting - Hand & Dagger

Fri 9 Mar
20:50 – 22:20
Paddle Skills Pool Session - Fulwood Leisure Centre
Contact: Allan Hacking

Fri 16 Mar
20:50 – 22:20
Open pool session – Fulwood leisure centre

Fri 23 Mar
20:50 – 22:20
Youth Pool Session
Contact: Nina Sparks

31 Mar – 7 Apr
Scottish Whitewater Trip
Contact: John Kington

APRIL

Sun 22 Apr
London 2012 Kayakathon
Contact: Alan Blackburn
See forum for more details

MAY

Sat 26 May
14:00 – 23:30
Beer festival with music and camping - mowbreck
Contact: Roy Booth

NOTE: Trips may be changed or cancelled at short notice. Always get in touch with the trip organiser the day before to check!

If you don't, and you have a wasted trip, don't blame us.