

TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



November/December 2011

Halloween Paddle

Paul Binks



“It was a dark, dark night, the wind howled and the spirits were getting restless...”

Actually it was rather a pleasant evening, the rain had stopped and the wind died down. Five little kids and five big kids at heart set off in open boats for a half term Halloween paddle from the H&D.

Most had made an effort to get dressed up: some more effort than others to be fair. I bought a cheap mask and wore it for about two minutes, whilst Liz and Eva went the whole hog with face paint and hair dye.

New comer to the club Adam Welch made a good effort as did Joseph and Eve, though the mums and dads need to try harder next time!

Also joining us and doing a good job of bat spotting was Tony Morley. It had just got dark when we returned to the H&D, but apart from a couple of bats unfortunately no ghosts or monsters sighted. Post paddle saw chips and games in the H&D, organized by Liz.

Paul Binks

Festive Meal at Hand & Dagger

Tuesday 20 December 2011 at 7.00pm

We've already got 38 bookings for this festival feast so e-mail me with your menu choices as soon as possible at Chairman@ribblecanoecub.co.uk if you can come along. Or you can go on the website Forum and make your wishes known. Or you could text me at the number below. Martin, the Landlord is giving us a really good deal on this one charging us only £12.50 for the three courses instead of the full price of £16!!! Give me your money by the end of November at the latest, or your meal will be passed to Adam (Burger Boy).

Starters

- 01: Honey Roasted Parsnip Soup (v) served with granary bread from Phil's bakery, Lytham
- 02: Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese Cracker Scottish smoked salmon filled with cheese and herb pâté and wrapped into a festive cracker
- 03: Ham Hock Terrine served with a light pea purée & Melba toast

Main courses

- 04: Roast Fylde Turkey served with home-made stuffing, chipolatas, cranberry sauce, panache of vegetables & roast potatoes
- 05: Seared Fillet of Salmon with Tomato Hollandaise Scottish salmon from Lanigans of Lytham served with tomato Hollandaise, panache of vegetables & sauté potatoes
- 06: Braised daub of Beef slow cooked beef served with horseradish mash potato, panache of vegetables & Bourguignonne sauce
- 07: Roasted Butter Nut Squash (v) butternut squash filled with savoury cous cous and covered with goats cheese, with a plum tomato sauce

Desserts

- 08: Christmas Pudding served with homemade rum sauce
- 09: Apple & Cinnamon tart-tatin served with Lakeland vanilla ice cream
- 10: Triple chocolate fudge gateaux served with Chantilly cream
- 11: Topsy Sherry Trifle made to our special recipe

It's Christmaaaaaaaaaaaaaas !!!

See you there, if not before. Terry 07733386704

Tay Descent 2011

Norman Green

Paddlers: Kayaks - Norman & Mark Green, John Kington, Albert Risely, Wayne Lees, Rachel Body, Andy & Debbie Dowe.
Open Canoe - Will Body, Allan Hacking, Roy Booth, Paul Binks, Mick Sumner, Tony Marsh. Sea Kayak - Rick Patterson

This was the second year of the event, but the first time for us, and it was the popularity of it amongst club members that drew us to it.

Pat and I travelled up to Perth in our Campervan on the Wednesday to extend the trip and to size things up before the event. After all it is a long way to travel for just a weekend, especially if you are retired and have the luxury of time on your hands.

We were joined by Kath & Albert Risely who, like us, were staying in their caravan at the Perth Racecourse Caravan Site at Scone. I think everyone else from Ribble was travelling up to Perth, the base for the event, on Friday and staying in pre-booked Bed & Breakfast accommodation in the town.

The Tay Descent is a weekend paddling festival based around the town of Perth and the river running through it. The actual paddling involves a Tour/Race from Dunkeld downstream to Perth, a distance of 23 miles. There is also a short course which starts at Stanley Mills and ends at Perth, a distance of 7 miles. The trip can be done in single or double kayaks, sea kayaks, racing kayaks or open canoes.

As well as the paddling, there is a Scottish Canoe Exhibition on over the weekend and a Ceilidh on Saturday evening, where the prize giving takes place.

The Tay Descent is a good example of how the rise in the numbers of paddlers can be used to benefit an area of Tourism like Perth. I am sure that local accommodation providers were pleased that the event allowed them to fill their rooms at a time when many visitors

had left for the season. From talking to staff at Scone Palace, visitor numbers on the Saturday of the event was the “Busiest of the Season.” This demonstrates that the “Paddler Groupies and Roadies” appreciate the fact that the event gives them a reason to visit somewhere even if they are not actually paddling. It also demonstrates that we are a “Cultured Lot” or at least the non-paddling partners and supporters are.

The paddlers and supporters came from far and wide, with many people from the South of England and some from the North of Scotland. A prize was awarded for the person who had travelled the furthest to the event. This was won hands down by Calvin, who had travelled from Hawaii. (Beat That)



As we had arrived on Wednesday we took the opportunity to take a look at the sections of river we were concerned about. Campsie Linn has a reputation from last year as being the place where a number of Ribble paddlers took an involuntary swim and Stanley Weir also caused a few similar problems.

Albert, Kath Pat and I decided that we should take the video camera and film these two from the riverbank so that we could check out which lines to take on the Saturday of the tour. This was no problem at Stanley Weir, but Campsie Linn is a very wide bit of river, where there used to be a quarry.

The river used to flow around the right hand side of this, but now actually flows straight through it. The result is that the river is divided into four sections each section separated by a rocky outcrop. Of the four possible routes down, we could only see two of them. From our vantage point we were only sure of one thing; that the two places paddleable on our side of the river were far from attractive and we were just hoping that the other two were more inviting. We had been advised that the SCA would have safety people present on the day to advise us about choice of routes down. At that moment the choice would probably have been "None of the above."

By comparison, Stanley Weir had a large slot in it with smooth green standing waves at the bottom where it would be easy enough to paddle down without any problem, or so we thought.

After Stanley Weir is a section of river which was described as being a long section of large standing waves, where you have to be fully focused to avoid problems. This is called Cat's Paw and Hell Hole. Upon inspection we thought that these descriptions were a little over exaggerated, since there were plenty of route options to avoid any trouble. Furthermore the standing waves did not look particularly big or difficult to avoid if you wanted to. Reassured by these discoveries we went back to the caravan site for a nice evening meal and a small glass of tippie.

On the Friday afternoon we met up with the other club members at the Perth Concert Hall where all participants were required to register and collect T Shirts, numbered bibs and information packs for the event. The event seemed to be well run so far with everything going to plan, so far so good. Allan Hacking had his notebook at hand and was checking that everyone knew what arrangements were for the shuttles, who was travelling with who, who was carrying whose boat etc.

Saturday morning was a bit of a culture shock for Pat & Me, we had to be out of bed

BEFORE IT WAS LIGHT (shock horror we are pensioners we don't normally do such things). However we had to be at the start by 9 am and this was a 45 minute drive away (don't ask me to work out what time it was it is too traumatic to think back). All I remember is being in a state of shock/apprehension/fear and completely unable to eat my porridge. Pat was not paddling and Albert & Kath were providing the transport so all I had to do was to don my paddling kit and get my arse into gear ready for the trip. I was already nervous at the prospect of paddling 23 miles let alone doing it on a now swollen and unfamiliar river and doing the last part of the trip into a fairly strong headwind. On the plus side there was no rain forecast for the day.

On the drive up to the start I sat in quiet contemplation, eating my rapidly cooling porridge and wondering; what the hell was a pensioner like me doing undertaking something that would cause his feeble body to require the consumption of several Ibuprofen tablets and many hours of rest to repair the damage I was now going to inflict upon it. The thought of going to a Ceilidh after this was not very appealing either. I was also afraid that if I actually completed the trip in one piece I might fall asleep in my dinner at the Italian restaurant anyway.

We arrived at the start point at a football pitch on the outskirts of Dunkeld, and met up with the other club members. I discovered that two members of the group had been indulging in a vomiting competition after competing in a wine drinking contest the previous evening. They had called it an honourable draw and were by now fit to paddle, but rather quiet.

After having our boats and equipment scrutinised we were awarded a nice pink circular sticker and asked to stand in a large mass of paddlers ready for the instruction to launch and paddle over the river to the starter on the far bank.

Eventually everyone seemed to get tired of waiting and simply overran the officials at the exit point in the corner of the field.

This is where the real fun began; there was a very narrow gap through which around 100 paddlers were trying to pass carrying and dragging small boats big boats, short boats, long boats and very long boats.



To add to the fun when you actually got through the narrow gap there was a drop of about 3 feet and a lot of trees and bushes and a path with a 90 degree turn on it. Well if you consider that boats like sea kayaks or K2's are 18 feet long at least and don't bend in the middle you have a situation which can and did develop into a bit of a farce. I had mental images of a K2 crew consisting of Laurel and Hardy.

The launching area was a bit crowded and I saw at least one large man in touring boat capsize as he seal launched down the bank. (Maybe Oliver Hardy is here after all I thought).



The Ribble contingent set off in small groups to get the show on the road, the first thing I noticed was how fast the water was flowing as we did a ferry glide to the starter on the far bank. It was a fair bit higher than when I had last seen it on the Wednesday, and was

wondering how it would affect the problem sections further down. On a positive note the fast current would help us along to Perth quite nicely.



We all negotiated the first bit of the river without problems and eventually stopped for lunch near Kinclaven Castle. We had completed the section which was flowing mainly easterly and now we would be paddling roughly south westerly, which was where the wind was coming from.



After lunch with a sense of foreboding we headed down to Campsie Linn to see what fate had in store for us. We arrived to be greeted by officials from the SCA who advised us of the options for shooting this section. Basically these were going down the far right (the chicken chute) or down the second from the right which was a straightforward fall with about a 4 foot drop on it.



I opted for the chicken chute, but discovered it was a fairly technical section where you had to negotiate a fast flowing rapid with overhanging trees and a few rocks. At least two of these rocks were strategically placed to catch out the unwary or unfortunate paddler as one or two club paddlers found out to their cost last year.

Good luck or good paddling prevailed and everyone managed to do Campsie Linn without capsizing, irrespective of which route down they chose.

Half Time Score RCC 15 River Tay 0.

Now we had to face Stanley Weir followed by Cat's Paw and Hell Hole.



After Campsie Linn Allan Hacking called us all together and advised us that the next few kilometres required us to be very focused and we should look out for each other because the river would become more challenging to paddle. With these words in mind we set off for Stanley Weir, although I was less worried about it having seen it on the previous Wednesday.

As we approached the weir we were met by a member of the SCA safety crew who advised that he would show us the route down and that we should follow him up to the point where he broke out left to wait for the next group. In fact the route was indicated by the fact that there was a paddler sat in the eddy at either side waiting to rescue any swimmers.

The guide paddled down the weir followed by John, Wayne, (not John Wayne no cowboys on this trip) myself, then Mark. Not wishing to be too picky but when I saw the line that the guide took straight through the diagonal curling stoppers I chose to take my own line

straight down the green shoot in the middle to avoid a potential capsize. This was probably a wise choice because if anyone swam on this section it could be a long one since this was the start of the Cat's Paw and it was not what I was expecting.

I am reliably informed that the Tay has the greatest water flow of all the rivers in the UK. It certainly felt like it when I was paddling down Hell Hole and Cats Paw.

As mentioned earlier I wondered why this bit had such a fearsome name. On the Saturday the river was quite a bit higher than when we had seen it on the Wednesday, and my curiosity was explained as I paddled through large waves and boils trying to get across to river right to break out after the right hand bend.

When I approached the eddy after the bend I started to line up to break out but suddenly realised the eddy was about a foot lower than the current racing past it and the eddy line was a mass of gnarly looking boils. Although I normally aim to break out high in an eddy, I quickly decided to break out at the bottom end of this one to try and avoid an embarrassing swim in front of all the SCA rescue boats waiting to pounce on victims of the Hell Hole.

I sat in the eddy waiting for the rest of the group to catch up, hoping that no one would capsize here and need a rescue, if they did they would have to rely on the SCA I was not leaving this comfy little eddy until my heart rate had slowed down a bit after the recent battle with the boils.

My fears were unfounded and all of the group came through the right way up and made the break out. From here on down it was relatively plain sailing the Mighty Tay, although still charging along, calmed down and allowed us a more relaxed paddle back to Perth.

Perhaps relaxed is not the right word actually since it became a real slog into an increasing head wind.



Latest Score RCC 30 River Tay 0

We were coming across other paddlers particularly young ones, who were showing signs of cold and fatigue, we did our best to provide encouragement but it was down to them to draw on their reserves of stamina, and will power to finish the course.

Finally Perth and its bridges hove into view and we pressed on into the wind looking forward to reaching the end of the trip.



We passed under the bridge with a banner on it saying "Finish." If only that were true we still had what was described as a 600 metre paddle to the egress point. 600 metres felt more like 6 miles, but when we finally reached the slipway we were greeted by lots of fire and rescue personnel who dragged us up the ramp on a plastic mat and helped us out of our boats, other helpers appeared from nowhere and carried our boats up to the car park so that we could concentrate on making our wobbly legs work again and join our boats on the car park. Well you can't knock service like that can you?

Well actually one of our group suggested that next year these helpers, most of whom were young and attractive females, should wear bikinis. This did not go down well and he was threatened with a slap for his cheek.



After completing this trip I have to say I was really pleased that I had done it. Despite my reservations and fears I had enjoyed it (apart from the headwind bit).

I could now answer the question: *what the hell was a pensioner like me doing undertaking something that would cause his feeble body to require the consumption of several Ibuprofen tablets and many hours of rest to repair the damage I was now going to inflict upon it.*

The answer: **having a brilliant time.**

The Saturday Night Ceilidh was well attended, and provided a good opportunity for the prize giving ceremony.





Binky & his double can you find them both

As mentioned, Ribble paddlers, apart from Rick Patterson, were doing the “Tour” as opposed to racing, so we obviously didn’t win any prizes.

Rick competed, with honour, in the Sea Kayak category, being placed 4th out of 7 competitors in a very creditable time of 2 hours 58 minutes and 22 seconds. Having paddled down the course in a river kayak I have to admire anyone doing this in any kind of long pointy boat that you can’t turn quickly enough to get out of trouble. When I saw the K2 racing kayakers at the start, I didn’t fully appreciate how brave/skilled/foolish/bonkers (you choose) they were to paddle the river in these conditions.

I only saw them at the start; because once these crews get paddling they leave paddlers in other types of boat trailing in their wake.

Some of their times were amazing. The winning K2 had a time of 1 hour 59 minutes and 22 seconds as compared to the times of the Ribble Touring Paddlers, which ranged from 5 hours 12 minutes 6 seconds to 5 hours 27 minutes 42 seconds. To be fair we did stop for lunch and comfort breaks and to take photographs, shoot some video, have a rest, have a chat, have a play, admire the scenery etc. After all we had come to enjoy the experience of paddling the “Mighty Tay.” Can I mention that none of our group swam, so that’s an improvement on last year.

The event was organised by the SCA, who did a good job, and are to be congratulated for the way they made the weekend so enjoyable. It was a task requiring a lot of organising but was done in a friendly way and the operation ran smoothly, as far as the competitors were concerned anyway, (apart from the Laurel & Hardy Start, but the SCA are aware of it and have promised to sort it out before next year).

On the following day some of the group decided to paddle the stretch of river Tay from Kenmore on Loch Tay down to Grandtully, but that’s another story.

Thanks to those taking part and their support crews for doing the driving, cooking, organising, photography etc.

Norman Green

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

Mull – a tour of several islands

Phil Haworth

In August, 8 Scout Leaders set off northwards on a wet and windy Friday evening to meet at Kings House Hotel near Glencoe for a wild camp en route for Mull.

The wild camp lived up to its name as we were kept awake most of the night (despite a couple of night caps in the climbers bar), wondering if we were going to emulate Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz! We even had to take pot luck through some extreme puddles to park off the road.

Saturday – to Inch Kenneth

It was still wet and wild when we emerged from our tents at 7am the following morning. Not much of a view as we hurriedly dropped the tents and headed off to the Corran Ferry, followed by a twisty drive southwards to Lochaline for the ferry on to Mull. We had time to enjoy haggis burgers whilst waiting for the ferry – they smelt so good that some people had to have two! It may seem like a long way to drive to get on to Mull, but the ferry from Oban is a lot more expensive.

Given the weather forecast and in light of the current weather conditions, a quick decision was made to change the route slightly and start from Loch Na Keal rather than near Salen in the Sound of Mull (a couple of us had bad memories of paddling against a headwind for 2 days in the Sound of Mull!).

As we reached Loch Na Keal the clouds mostly disappeared and the sun came out, but there was still quite a strong wind. So we managed to pack the kayaks in good conditions and dry the tents from the night before - some people are so lucky.

Unfortunately the wind didn't drop, so we had quite a strong headwind as we launched the kayaks and headed to Inch Kenneth for our first night away.

The wind seemed to intensify the closer we got to Inch Kenneth, forcing a short rest behind a rocky outcrop when only half a mile away. Once off the water the wind dropped and we were in for a pleasant evening.

Mussels were collected off the nearby rocks and Ray magically produced 2 small bottles of white wine, so an excellent starter was soon created as a prelude to everyone's tea. Some wood was collected and a fire started on the beach in order to help the whisky circulate around the group! Rain stopped play around 9pm forcing an early night, which was probably a good thing after the restless night before and the early start.

Sunday – Ulva and Gometra

Although the sky was overcast the following morning, it was at least dry. Kayaks were packed and we set off towards Ulva ferry to circumnavigate the island. At the ferry we spied a café so we had to stop and support the local economy – a good move as the slices of cake were enormous!

Travelling along the north coast of Ulva meant we were mostly sheltered from the wind, so a few took advantage of the calm conditions and fished for their tea successfully. After a lunch stop where it narrows before the separate island of Gometra, we headed onto the exposed west coast of Gometra where the sea became a little bouncy and we were once again faced with quite a strong headwind.

After battling along the west coast, and with an extended detour to miss the breakers around the south west corner of Gometra, we were able to find shelter in a natural harbour with an excellent camping area. It's a great spot which gives a very good vantage point to check out the crossing to the Treshnish Isles to the west and the sea to the south including Staffa and the west coast of Mull.

Although quite windy most of the night, it stayed dry allowing us a chance to explore the area and collect lots of driftwood for a fire. The fishermen cooked their catch on the open fire and had fresh mackerel (cooked in butter and herbs) with new potatoes and garden peas!



The fire was kept going all evening, as we chatted and passed the medicinal compound round.

Monday – Treshnish Isles

The wind had dropped quite a bit over night and the crossing to the Treshnish Isles looked good. We were soon across and exploring Fladda with the ruined houses and the light/weather station on the rocky outcrop which forms most of the island.



We were watched by some very inquisitive seals as we got back in the kayaks and headed off to Lunga for lunch.

The sun was now out and making up for its absence over the last day or so, making Lunga very appealing.

We left Ray lazing on Lunga whilst we paddled over to Dutchman's Cap for a nosey as it was too early to call it a day just yet.

With the sea nothing more than a gentle swell, it was time to get the fishing lines out again and try to catch some tea/supper. After a couple of catches of 3 small mackerel I must have found the perfect spot above a shoal, as I proceeded to pull 4 or 5 fish at a time out of the water as soon as I'd put the line back in! We lost count around the 20 mark and in my excitement to unhook them, I accidentally let go of the line and it sank to the bottom of the sea. Although others were fishing around me, no one else seemed to have the same luck.

We couldn't see anywhere to land on Dutchman's Cap, so paddled back to Lunga and put the tents up in the sunshine.



Whilst some were getting tea ready, others went exploring to the top of Lunga to admire the views.



After tea a fire was made and the mackerel cooked for supper - another enjoyable evening around the fire.

Tuesday - Staffa

We awoke to find the skies overcast again, and another headwind to battle against during our paddle to Staffa. It was a tiring 6 mile crossing and we eventually landed in a sheltered bay just round the corner from Fingal's Cave. As we were about to land a lone sea kayak appeared from the corner of the bay, and told us that he'd just achieved another part of his current goal? As he hadn't celebrated his 50th, he had decided to do 51 wild swims in different places for his 51st birthday – Fingal's Cave being the latest!

As we were having lunch, a few of our group announced that they'd found the morning's paddle very tiring and weren't sure about carrying on. We checked the sea towards Mull as we wandered round into Fingal's Cave and it didn't look particularly inviting with more and more white horses appearing as the wind picked up. A decision was therefore taken to stay the night on Staffa, rather than risk a capsizing during the crossing due to tiredness.

This gave us plenty of time to explore the island fully whilst waiting for the boat loads of trippers to leave us alone on the island. Tent pitches were a little tricky but we managed to squeeze in around the many rocky outcrops.



With a reasonable amount of driftwood around we were able to have a camp fire again, accompanied by some local firewater. No doubt it was helped by the odd tippie, but all of a sudden Ray was attacked by an alien.



The fire eventually burnt out and we retired to our tents.

Wednesday – The Wilderness (Mull)

The day was very grey and overcast again but at least the wind seemed to have abated a little since yesterday.

Once on the water the wind picked up again and the weather closed in, making Mull disappear from time to time. We headed towards Eorsa in order to break the journey and have a brief rest on our 6 mile crossing to the west coast of Mull.

There was a bit of a swell washing through the rocks and inlets around Eorsa, but it was sheltered enough to give us a breather and have a chocolate bar before continuing on our way.

Just as we were leaving the shelter of Eorsa, we suddenly noticed that Ray and Sue in the double were desperately supporting and looking as though they were about to capsize. Stuart and I rushed to either side of them to offer support and then realised what the problem was – they'd managed to perch themselves on a submerged rock as the swell receded and were trying to keep upright until the next wave washed them off again! No harm done, but it was a worrying moment that caught us off guard.

As we continued our crossing to Mull, the weather worsened and the heavens opened. I've never seen rain so heavy before – it actually managed to flatten the swell on the sea! This made it very difficult to keep track of where we were heading and as Mull finally came into sight, we weren't sure whether we should head north or south to reach our planned camp site in the Wilderness? Southwards didn't look very promising, so we headed northwards which meant that at least the wind was behind us. However, after half an hour paddling northwards Stuart and I realised that we were heading the wrong way – it wasn't a very popular decision to turn around but everyone reluctantly went along with it.

An hour later we found the place we were looking for and landed the kayaks on a steep pebble beach. As we carried the kayaks up the beach the weather seemed to calm down and the rain stopped. Within the hour, the sun had come out and we had wall to wall blue skies!

The rest of the day was glorious sunshine, allowing us to even have a fresh water shower which felt great once you got used to the cold water.



The rest of the afternoon was spent sunbathing and chatting, although Ash decided on a more energetic pastime by trying to climb to the top of the cliffs behind us. Once again there was an abundance of driftwood so another fire had to be built on the beach! We had a stunning sunset to admire and continued chatting for quite a while in the glow of the fire.



Thursday - Ulva

The weather continued to be kind to us with sunshine and a slight headwind. We were losing Ray today as he had to get back home by tonight, but during the morning Ash and Kev decided to accompany him.

We did a bit of towing practice as training for our trip to Greenland next year, and then stopped on a pebble beach for lunch at the end of the simulated rescue exercise.

The rest of us then headed round the south side of Inch Kenneth and across to Ulva in scorching sunshine and no wind.

We had been in touch with another 4 friends all week, as they were travelling around the area in a Drascombe sail boat from a base in Salen on Mull. Although we had hoped to see them earlier in the week, I think we may have been a little too far out from Mull for their first venture onto the sea. However, we had arranged to meet them along the coast of Ulva this afternoon with the plan that 2 of them would stay the night with us.

As we got closer to Ulva we spotted their boat in the distance, but they'd passed us before we got close enough. However, they stopped in a sheltered bay and we finally met up and had a good chat as we hadn't seen them since Friday evening.

They followed us a short distance to the sandy beach we planned to stay on.

We helped the Drascombe anchor in the shallows. Then they all came ashore for a while and Ian and Chris pitched their tent along with the rest of us.

After a while Sandy and Ron launched the Drascombe and headed back to the Ulva ferry to get their boat back on the trailer to drive back to Salen.

As Ian and Chris hadn't brought much food with them, we had a throw together meal with whatever we could rustle up between us.

We had to search quite a distance to find a limited amount of drift wood, but at least we had enough to make a decent attempt.

Another evening was spent chatting round the fire in idyllic conditions. This is the first time, as far as I can remember, that I've enjoyed a camp fire every night of a sea kayak trip in Scotland!

Friday – Loch Na Keal

As we finished loading our kayaks, Ian and Chris headed cross country towards the Ulva ferry and meet up with Sandy and Ron for a lift back to Salen. The remaining 5 of us then paddled the last few miles towards Loch Na Keal and our waiting cars.



On the way we stopped off at the salmon farm to have a nosey, and saw an otter swimming nearby – perhaps looking for an easy meal?

Once back at the cars Stuart had a final request for Michael and Andy – some rolling and capsizing practice, again as part of their Greenland training for next year. This went very well with Michael even managing a re-entry and roll on the second attempt!

The cars were packed and we headed round to Tobermory for a final night and a celebratory meal in the main pub. Saturday morning we were up early to catch the ferry back to the mainland and make the long drive back to Lancashire.

Roll on Greenland next year!!

Phil Haworth

This photograph was omitted from Phil Howarth's newsletter article (July 2011) "The Small Isles".

Phil has asked for it to be published and for it to be considered for the photo competition.



Star Wars Episode more than III but not quite IV: the fall of Darth Dum Bongo

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...

..... It is a period of civil war. Rebel spaceships, striking from a hidden base, have won their first victory against the evil Galactic Empire

During the battle, Rebel spies managed to steal secret plans to the Empire's ultimate weapon, the Death Star, an armoured space station with enough power to destroy an entire planet.

Pursued by the Empire's sinister agents, Princess Leia races home aboard her Starship, custodian of the stolen plans that can save her people and restore freedom to the galaxy....

..... But on route she has to crash land on planet Wood Full to escape from the evil Darth Dum Bongo who has been lured to The Dark Side.

It's a strange watery planet. Once the little fish people have gone the Ribblers emerge; all shapes, sizes and colours. All driven by the desire to get cold, wet and muddy and spend lots of money on the shiny plastic things. Armed with their special spears with broad, flat ends and dressed for battle they have to engage on many trials to help the stricken Princess and defeat the Evil Lord, Darth Dum Bongo. What happens next is the making of legends, and it depends on you.....

For those of you over 40, DumBongo is Ribble's answer to the Christmas It's A Knock out, for those under 40 it's Total Wipeout but played in teams, we were a lot more collectively minded in the 70's, too much individualism today. Each year the last Friday before Christmas we have a fun night at the pool. Three or four teams of upwards of 4 players, ideally 6, play more or less the same games as the year before but each year a new theme is chosen. This year it's Star Wars. I already have my crack rebel forces working on the battle tactics to 'Star Wars-ify' the games that will be released on the forum very soon. It is tradition, we like tradition in Ribble, to have teams of mixed gender, age and ability. On the forum I'll be asking for team captains to come forwards and people to register interest. If you are interested in taking part, or even just watching, keep a look out on the forum.

Obi-Wan Kenobi Binky

Trophies 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 (new award last year)

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 (new award this year)

The Pic of the Year trophy (the name may be changed if anyone can come up with a better one) will be awarded for the best picture published in the Newsletter or on our Website Gallery in the current year. We're not sure how this will be chosen but go ahead and nominate any qualifying picture – it won't do any harm. We haven't even acquired a trophy yet!

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@ribblecanoecub.co.uk by 31 December 2011.

Go on, nominate some deserving member.

AGM 2011

Agenda

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

To receive the Hon. Secretary's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2011.

To receive the Hon. Treasurer's report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2011

To receive the Competition Secretary's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2011

To receive the Hon. Chairman's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2011.

To elect Officers and Members to the General Committee.

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 2011.

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

Editor's Bit

I am going to start off this bit with a complaint. How come the editor has to write articles about paddling events attended by about 20 other club members? Why has this article not been written by one of you?

This edition like others has been difficult to put together because of a lack of articles. Please remember it is YOUR newsletter and should reflect the fact with YOUR articles. If you are a relatively new member please write an article letting us know what you have been doing in your paddling exploits, or what you think of the club etc. It doesn't have to be long just interesting. The article written by Paul Binks on the Halloween Paddle is a good example of what I mean. Thanks Paul.

Thanks to Phil Haworth for his article about his sea kayak trip around Mull. It occurred to me that this kind of article is more interesting if it is accompanied by map showing the route taken.

Experienced sea paddlers probably know the places mentioned in the article, but many of us are not so familiar with the area. Perhaps we should investigate this for the next newsletter. Any suggestions on this will be much appreciated.

Dates and Deadlines The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 4th January at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on 11th January. We would appreciate all submissions by Wednesday 18th. Please send submissions by email, to newsletter@ribblecanoecub.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@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

Top Tips

BEFORE you start paddling on Rivers or The Sea, ensure your equipment especially your paddle and boat, are marked up with your contact details. Then if you have an accident and lose either of these, if they are subsequently found they can be returned to you. Furthermore if you lose them especially your boat, you should inform the police. Because if the boat is found the rescue services may assume that you have also been lost and start an expensive and pointless search looking for the owner of the boat. Suggest you mark the equipment with name, telephone number, post code and house number.

Black paddles are notoriously difficult to see especially if you have lost one on a river and it is trapped in between rocks on the river bed. Suggest you wrap brightly coloured tape around the shaft in a spiral so that it is easier to find. You can also wrap a short length of Duct Tape around the centre of the shaft so that it can be re-used for repair to boats, kit, hands etc.

If you have any top tips email us at newsletter@ribblecanoecclub.co.uk

Chairman's Chat

What a Club! I'm told we had 17 (yes 17) members descending the Tay at the end of October. And Calvin won the prize for the paddler coming furthest to the event. We all know he came over last whenever, just to train and practice for this event. It sounds like everyone had a cracking time with the paddling and the night life. And no swims!! Well done to all, especially the less experienced paddlers for whom it must certainly have been a challenge.

Then just last week-end was the Tyne Tour, an annual event since the days of yore. Allan and Rache took part in the race on Saturday and came third in the doubles (in the Club's Topolino Duo) despite (I hear) going down Warden's Gorge sideways and hitting all the rocks. There were lots of Ribble paddlers there, including several less experienced who, again, must have found it challenging and exhilarating. I'm hoping that there'll be detailed accounts of both these events elsewhere in this Newsletter or in the next.

What a delight at our last Committee Meeting to have a couple of keen volunteers. Nina (MiniSparky) was co-opted onto the Committee as Club Welfare Officer and Mark

Shaw was co-opted on as Competition Secretary. I guarantee you will have heard Nina, even if you haven't heard OF her. Seriously she's been doing some sterling work coaching Paddlepower and now she's taken on the role of Welfare Officer which can be exacting and certainly isn't glamorous. So thanks for that, Nina.

If you've heard of Mark, it will have been in terms of his support for son Jonathon and daughter Jacqueline who have both represented the UK at Junior Level in Slalom. Both Mark and Susan have spent many years ferrying their children across the UK and Europe to the many events which this discipline demands. Mark is keen to stimulate interest in slalom within the Club. Thanks for volunteering, Mark.

Pencil in Tuesday 21 February 2012 for the Club's AGM. Get any items you want discussed submitted by 31 December as also all your nominations for the awards. And book in with me your menu choices if you can make Tuesday 20th December for the Hand & Dagger Festive Meal.

Terry Maddock

Tel: 077 333 86704

Chairman@ribblecanoecclub.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
18 Nov	Polo	Rachel Body (Desmond Drew)	Mark Dillon	William Body
25 Nov	Safety Session	Tony Morgan	Albert Risely	Terry Maddock
2 Dec	Open	n/a	Adam Fielder	John Kington
9 Dec	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Mark Buttle	Brian Woodhouse
16 Dec	Dumbongo	Paul Binks	Rick Turner	Paul Binks
23 Dec	No session			
30 Dec	No session			
6 Jan	Open		Mark Dillon	Graham Kingaby
13 Jan	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Tony Morgan	Rachel Body
20 Jan	Rolling	Gary Fishwick	Katy Fishwick	Gary Fishwick
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	William Body	Rachel Body
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
30 Mar	Open		Katy Fishwick	Gary Fishwick

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.

Ribble CC Library

To borrow a book or video, contact Cynthia Conway (cfconway@tiscali.co.uk) or see her at the Hand & Dagger. Donations of books or videos are always welcome.

Technique:

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

Guidebooks:

English White Water
Scottish White Water
White Water Lake District
An Atlas of the English Lakes
Canal Companion: Cheshire Ring
Anglesey Sea Paddling
Welsh Sea Kayaking
Touring 100 Paddles in England
Scottish Sea Kayak Trail

General:

The Rough Guide to Weather
The Liquid Locomotive
Many Rivers to Run
Norwegian rivers
Canoe Focus
Working out of Doors with Young People

Expeditions:

Travels with a Kayak
Whit Descher
On Celtic Tides
Chris Duff
Blazing Paddles
Brian Wilson
Dancing with Waves
Brian Wilson
Paddling to Jerusalem
David Aaronovitch
The Last River
Todd Balf
Paddle to the Arctic
Don Starkey
Canoeing across Canada
Gary & Joanie McGuffin
The Canoe Boys
Sir Alastair Dunnnett
Odyssey among the Inuit
Jonathan Waterman
Barbed Wire & Babushkas
Paul Grogan

Videos:

Liffey Descent
Deliverance (18)
Extreme Sports Canoeing
A Taste of White Water
Wicked Water 2
Drill Time
Destination Nowhere

Path of the Paddle: Whitewater

DVDs:

Tony Morgan - Grand Canyon
LVM Lunch Video Magazine
Ribble Newsletters (CD)
The Martin Years RCC Newsletters 2002-2009
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
My Tartan Adventure (VCD)
Ribble Canoe Club, Scotland 2007
Thistle Float Your Boat
RCC, Scotland 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
Janet Robinson
The Call of the River - 100 years of Whitewater Adventure (USA)
Sea Kayak with Gordon Brown
Instructional Journey along Skye Coast

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.

NOVEMBER

Fri Nov 18

Polo pool session - Fulwood Leisure Centre

Contact: Rachel Body

Sat Nov 19

3* pre assessment trip - Allan Hacking TBC

All day

Beginners trip - Terry Maddock TBC

Sun Nov 20

Teeside WW course

See forum for details

Tue Nov 22 18:00 – 21:30

Social Meeting at Hand & Dagger + paddling?

Fri 25

Safety pool session – Fulwood Leisure Centre

Tue Nov 29 18:00 – 21:30

Social Meeting at Hand & Dagger + paddling?

DECEMBER

Fri 2

Open pool session – Fulwood leisure centre

Sat Dec 3

All day

Development trip, Allan Hacking TBC

Tue Dec 6 18:00 – 21:30

Social Meeting at Hand & Dagger + paddling?

Introduction of New Members and those thinking about it. Hand & Dagger.

Wed Dec 7 19:00 – 21:00

Coaching Forum - Hand & Dagger, Treales Road, nr Kirkham.

Fri Dec 9

Paddle Skills Pool Session - Fulwood Leisure Centre

Contact: Allan Hacking

Sat Dec 10 10:30 – 15:00

1 Star assessment day - TBA

Sat Dec 10 19:00 – 01:00

Xmas Dinner & Disco - New Drop Inn, above Ribchester

Contact: Debbie Dowe

Tue Dec 13 18:00 – 21:30

Social Meeting at Hand & Dagger + paddling?

Fri Dec 16

Dumbongo games night – Fulwood leisure centre

Contact: Paul Binks

Sat Dec 17 10:30 – 16:00

Beginner's trip - TBA

Tue Dec 20 18:00 – 21:30

Christmas Meal at Hand & Dagger

Contact: Terry Maddock

Tue Dec 27 18:00 – 21:30

Social Meeting at Hand & Dagger + paddling?

JANUARY

Tue Jan 3 18:00 – 21:30

Introduction of New Members and those thinking about it. -

Hand & Dagger, Treales road, Salwick, Kirkham PR4 0SA

Fri 6 Jan

Open pool session – Fulwood leisure centre

Tue Jan 10 18:00 – 21:30

Social Meeting at Hand & Dagger + paddling?

Wed Jan 11 19:00 – 21:00

Committee meeting - Hand & Dagger, Treales.

Fri Jan 13

Paddle Skills Pool Session - Fulwood Leisure Centre

Contact: Allan Hacking

Jan 20 & 27 + Feb 3

Rolling course – Fulwood Leisure Centre

FEBRUARY

Wed Feb 1 19:00 – 21:00

Coaching Forum - Hand & Dagger, Treales Road, nr Kirkham

Fri Feb 10

Paddle Skills Pool Session - Fulwood Leisure Centre

Contact: Allan Hacking

Fri Feb 17

Open pool session – Fulwood leisure centre

Tue Feb 21 20:00 – 22:00

Ribble Canoe Club AGM - Hand and Dagger, Treales Road, nr Kirkham

Fri Feb 24

Slalom Pool Session – Fulwood Leisure Centre

Contact: Mark Shaw

MARCH

Fri Mar 2

Sea kayaking Safety pool session

Contact: Allan Hacking

31 Mar – 7 Apr

Scottish Whitewater Trip

Contact: John Kington

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.