

TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



May/June 2014

A Sea Kayaking Guide to the Solway Firth

Andy Biggs



The Solway Firth may not be recognised as one of the country's premier sea kayaking destinations, but it does provide some good paddling. It forms a natural border between England and Scotland, possibly after September this year you may need to carry your passport if you intend to paddle from one side to another.

The area stretches from St. Bees Head in the south, up to the Mull of Galloway, on the western end of Dumfries and Galloway. The Rivers Esk and Eden both empty into the estuary at its head. The most noticeable feature of the Solway Firth is the large expanses of sand and mud at low tide and certainly understanding its ebb and flow will make any trip more enjoyable. It is easy to observe its force at Silloth; here the ebb tide will flow past at speeds only normally experienced on a river.

With St. Bees marking the start of the Solway Firth, it is also a point at which tides meet. This can lead to some confused seas off the headland. However, a trip heading north from the beach at the village of St. Bees to Whitehaven provides a good paddle. You pass the remains of the Cumbrian coal industry and arrive at a historical port, which is reinventing itself as a tourist destination with a new marina. The best place to land in Whitehaven is the beach north of the harbour, which is reached by driving past the new Tesco supermarket. A north flowing tide sets in about 1 hour before HW Dover, so this would be a good time to leave St. Bees. The south flowing tide starts about 4 hours after HW Dover. With some good timing it is easy to do a return trip.

Although it is possible to paddle any of the north Cumbrian coast, the next point of real interest is at Silloth. The best launch point is just north of the shore based light, which is about 1 Km from the center of the town. From here it is possible to take a flood tide around to the River Wampool and explore as far as the village of Anthorn. It is also possible to launch here and explore further inland, possibly using an open canoe. Another activity is to launch about an hour before low water and head NW to one of the many sand banks that litter the estuary in this area for a game of cricket!



The final recommended trip on the English side, is to launch about 2 Kilometres east of Port Carlisle and use the last 2 hours of a flood tide to explore the lower reaches of the River Eden and the start of Hadrian's Wall. Until 1853 a canal ran from Port Carlisle into the city. It is still possible to find remains of the sea lock and railway which was built on top of the canal, once it had been filled in. There is also part of the old dock still visible about 100 metres from the shore line. The railway used to cross the Solway Firth to the Scottish town of Annan near here. But the multi-span bridge was finally dismantled on 1934, after damage caused by ice which had formed further up-stream and then drifted down, as it thawed. After it closed in 1931, the viaduct had a guard's hut and gates installed to prevent its use on Sundays by pedestrians crossing from Scotland into England, where the alcohol licensing laws were less strict.

The Scottish coast that forms the north bank is not initially welcoming. Vast areas of sand and mud are exposed at low water and there are very few places where there is easy access. Although the River Annan provides a good grade 2 paddle, a weir in the middle of the town of Annan makes it a difficult point to access the tidal waters of the Solway. It is not until you continue to head east and reach the holiday village of Kippford, does the coast become a realistic option.



Kippford Mud

This is the easiest place to get in but the parking here is only for 3 hours, so you'll need to move the car back to the car park opposite the local sailing club. It is also quite easy to launch next to the sailing club near HW. From here a good paddle is to head out to Heston and Rough Islands. If you get your timing right it will still then be possible to take the last of the flood tide to carry you up Urr Water. On a big spring tide you can get as far as Dalbeattie. As you head up the river you will pass the small port at Palnackie, where you're likely to see a couple of fishing boats.

Even launching here sooner than 3 hours before HW, can be a very muddy affair. The small beach at Rockcliffe looks inviting but unless you like a long carry, the water does not come near here until 2 hours before HW. As the coast here is south facing and quite shallow, the prevailing SW wind can build up some confused seas.

In Kippford there is good free parking and public toilets, two pubs and a café. There is also a chandlery cum small boat yard opposite a slipway, which strictly costs £5 per day.



Palnackie

This was an active port until 1965 and during WW2 was used to ship munitions from the local factories, which were built in this area to be as far as possible from the eyes of the Luftwaffe.

A longer trip would be continue along the coast to Ross Bay, at the mouth of Kirkcudbright Bay. A good place to launch in this area is at Brighthouse Bay, where there is also a campsite with its own slipway, as well as a disused jet plane next to the camping field. The coast around here and the island of Little Ross can provide a good area to explore. There is a small slip way in the center of Kirkcudbright, with a near-by car park. However, it becomes a very muddy option at any time other than near HW, as does launching on the west side of the bay from the B727. But continue to head west and you will find the Islands of Fleet. Launch from the end of the minor road that heads to Knockbrex and there is plenty to explore.

The last area along this section of coast that is worth exploring is the Isle of Whithorn, which is not actually an Island.



The small village of Garlieston boasts two excellent camp sites and a large slip, but this is only really usable 2 hours either side of HW. However, it is easy to launch from the shingle beach on the east side of the harbour wall. From here it is a good paddle, especially if aided by a south flowing ebb tide, to the small harbour at the Isle of Whithorn. Here there is a car park, good launching and an excellent pub.

The final stretch will take you round Burrow Head. This is the most exposed piece of coast in the area, there are no get outs until you reach Port Castle Bay but there is no road access here. It is over a kilometer carry up a rough path to a car park. However, it is worth stopping and having a look at St. Ninian's Cave here. It was used as a retreat by St Ninian and successors in the 6th and 7th centuries, and today is still a place of pilgrimage. It is not for another 6 Km before you reach Back Bay can you realistically finish your trip. The west flowing tide starts about 1 hour after HW Dover and this would be the time to leave the safety of the isle of Whithorn. But be prepared for some rough water, especially if there has been any westerly winds in the previous few days, which will have built up a swell. The small harbour at Port William can also provide another option for a trip. If the weather is looking rough then leave the boat on the car roof and walk around Burrow Head, the view down the cliffs is spectacular.

The Solway Firth may not offer the variety of Anglesey or the endless miles to explore of the Scottish West coast but it will teach you how to read tide tables.

Useful Information: Reeds Western Almanac, Imray Chart C62 "Irish Sea", OS Maps, 83, 84, 85 and 89

Andy Biggs

VACANCY – RCC Club Secretary

The club needs to appoint a new club secretary, our current secretary (Gareth Jones) will be moving out of the area in the next few months. By advising us now Gareth is giving us time to elect a new Secretary and do a formal handover before he stands down.

A Job Description & Nomination Form has been sent out to club members that we hold email addresses for - we generally don't hold email addresses for family members. We would appreciate Adult members passing a copy of this email to anyone you listed as a RCC Family Member on your club application/renewal providing they are over the age of 18.

Experience has shown that people are reluctant to put themselves forward for committee, but will often do so if someone just asks them. With this in mind we would encourage members to approach anyone who they think could and would take on the role. If they accept then offer to nominate them and possibly even suggest a seconder.

The Proposer should obtain the nominees consent and type a letter Y in the box before emailing the completed form to the Club Secretary Gareth Jones secretary@ribblecanooclub.co.uk

Nomination forms to be returned to the current secretary by **Monday 9th June**

John Hooper's View of Being On T' Committee

It's a bit hard to know where to start this one and keep it, (hopefully), light-hearted yet informative, so please bear with me in my serious attempt to win this year's Shakespeare award. (No, really, remember the name.)

I guess it's fair to say I've done my share of being on committees, from Trade Union Branch Committees to the local Astronomical Society, (that's ASTRONOMICAL, NOT ASTROLOGICAL! PLEASE! Taurus and Leo are CONSTELLATIONS, not Star signs! And there's 88 of them, not 12.)

And don't ever waste your money buying someone a star named after them, it might seem romantic, but it's a scam, there's nothing in the least bit official or recognised about it! There, you've already learned something. And at 65, I still haven't figured out WHY? NO, not the Constellations or the scam, I know about them. I mean the sitting on committees!

Sometimes I look in the mirror and think I must be wearing some kind of version of The Emperor's New Clothes. I mean I stand there thinking "I know I've got MUG tattooed on my forehead, I just can't see it, but obviously everyone else can!"

I suppose the truth of WHY is a bit more complex than I think, or at least there are a number of reasons and I wouldn't really know a specific order in which to put them. In fact, right now, even as I'm actually writing this, is probably the first time I've thought about it in any meaningful depth.

The first, and most important reason I can think of is, "Someone has to do it." And I don't mean that sarcastically.

- Every organisation has to be run, somehow, by someone.
- Events etc. that members want to enjoy have to be organised. Someone has to do it.
- Finances have to be looked after, (it's your money, after all!). Someone has to do it.

If the club or whatever, needs to be affiliated to, or a member of a larger organisation, for whatever reasons, that has to be administered and their rules respected/adhered to. (That by the way, which is why we now have me being "Volunteer Organiser", and as I said elsewhere, YES, I know, I should have kept it shut!).

- Somebody has to write reports and/or keep minutes of meetings.
- Somebody has to keep track of the membership.
- Somebody has to conduct the band, etc. etc. ad infinitum.

Above all, somebody has to make the decisions, whether they be popular or not and a committee usually means having a range of opinions and input as well as putting members views, all of which must not only find a balance, but comply with any practical or legal requirements.

Then there's the point about giving a bit back. If I think about it until my head hurts, I start to realise that the various clubs, unions etc. that I've been a member of throughout my life have all given something to me in some way or other, whether it be helping me to enjoy a hobby or have decent working conditions, or whatever.

I've usually found friends there as well. Yes, of course I've paid my subs like everyone else, and I could have sat back and enjoyed the benefits, but all too often the call of the first reason has got me dragged in. (What is it about me? Do people just look at me and think "SUCKER"?).

Maybe, just maybe, deep down I like to feel useful. NO, DO NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE! I am aware of the power of those two consecutive characters, N and O!

Then of course there's the respect and kudos that goes with being on T' committee. Yeah, right! As Volunteer Organiser I'm going to be avoided like a plague carrier, aren't I? (Visions of people making religious signs as I appear).

I guess in some ways I've sat on various committees for so long I'm getting a bit numb to it. At least my bum is. Perhaps that happened quite a long time ago. And I also suppose I'm trying, in a rather cack-handed sort of way, to say if you find yourself being asked to come on t'committee at some moment in time, please have a go. You are a member. You do have a voice, which may not always be heard as you might like it to, but you do have a point of view and a contribution to make. Which at the very least, the rest of t' committee appreciate. And in all honesty, everyone else is just glad SOMEBODY'S doing it.

Before bringing this sorry diatribe to a close, and on a serious note, there are a couple of things that I'd like to bring up, our previous Chairman, Terry Maddock, has served the club in a number of positions over many years and is currently going through some very trying and worrying times. It behoves us all to thank him for his sterling service and to wish him well in the coming weeks and months.

Thanks must go to Matt Aspden for stepping into that particular breech, those are big boots to fill, but fortunately he's got big feet! And likewise to Roy Booth, one of our most dedicated coaches, for becoming our Vice-Chairman.

I should rightly thank ALL of our coaches for the terrific job they do, free of charge, in their own time and at no small expense to themselves, for our benefit.

And finally, thanks to Gareth Jones, our departing Secretary, for stepping up to that particular plate when needed, and doing a great job.

Which reminds me, we need a new Secretary, **ANY VOLUNTEERS?**

John Hooper

The Dam Dusters:

Easter 2014 Rannoch Moor Crossing

Paul Binks

Going half way across Scotland dragging, carrying, pushing, wading, wheeling, and on occasions paddling a canoe.

The Rannoch Moor crossing starts at Loch Ba, at the A82 Fort William Road on the west of Scotland and goes, at least for us, to Loch Tummel near the A9 Inverness Road on the east side of Scotland. Not a great distance but quite a challenge. Why would we want to take on a trip when we know there's not enough water in a lot of the river sections for us to paddle, and when there are at least two large hydro dams that require portages, in the case of the one at the start of the Tummel 4km? I'll leave that one with you.



Leaving a vehicle at Rannoch Station we spent 3 nights pottering around Loch Laidon. Very exposed and remote landscape with snow-capped mountains in the near distance, sandy/gritty beaches and a lot of open space for the wind to blow across; and I can tell you that that is what it did. Our first taste of polling and tracking and lining our boats was when we attempted to go upstream from Loch Ba. Up-stream! Why? Why not? A slightly late set off, due to a fantastically clear night star gazing and sampling whisky round the camp fire meant we didn't have quite enough time to go all the way and touch the A82.



Travelling essentially west to east we'd hoped the prevailing wind would aid us but for the entire week it decide to blow the wrong way! As we tried to exit Loch Laidon on day 3 the head wind meant we were doing about 1km per hour so we abandoned the paddling, set up camp and went for a walk instead.

Leaving Loch Laidon it had started to rain and we didn't have to paddle too far before the pattern for most of the next couple of days on the river sections emerged; it started to get too shallow so we walked the boat through the water, drops appeared that we could only run solo with light boats, or we had to line the boats down on ropes.



Sam and I had been prepared that we might have to carry our kit in order to lighten the boats. So rucksack style dry bags on our back, paddles in hand for support and to lighten the load, we yomped along the river banks. Usually you'd want to wear sturdy boots for this type of walking but I managed it in rather worn out paddling shoes, which were also wet; not pleasant. We also saw our first red deer along this section.

At the end of the day portaging round the hydro dam, continuously having to get out of the boats and walk with them through the water or line them down was starting to take its toll.



When a particularly long stretch of such water met a nice, smooth, flat tarmac road we opted to trolley the boats along the road before camping on an island. The scenery was much more agricultural and less moorland-ish and less wild.



This made finding suitable spots to camp a bit trickier.

Starting the next day we only paddled about 200m before the river ran shallow again. By lunch we were on Loch Rannoch and pleased to be able to paddle, be it into a very strong head wind. If the waves were spaced correctly we managed to mirror them and stay dry. If we didn't, rising over the first meant crashing into the second with water coming over the bow and straight on to my crotch!

We camped at the end of Loch Rannoch and only once tents and tarps pitched did we notice the sign facing the road that said no camping, which obviously didn't therefore apply to us as we'd arrived from the water. The toilet at the car park, fifteen minutes walk away, was also worth the walk, especially as this was the worst spot for ticks.



The rivers sections from now on were wider and actually flowed and we only had to get out occasionally. The longest portage of all was at the hydro dam on the start of the Tummel, 4km along an access road. What was most annoying was that there was an aqueduct inches to our right for half the journey that if we could have paddled would have made life so much easier; the sudden drop into the jaws of the hydro though was incentive enough not to try. But anyway we're canoeists, we enjoy making things hard work!



Getting to the bottom took about 2 hours. Accessing the river we made a tactical error and put on 50m above some rather tricky rapids we didn't know were there. An hour later, not wanting to look a gift horse in the mouth, we'd manage to use this as a golden opportunity to group line the boats down.

Entering Loch Tummel we are on the homeward stretch. 5 nights of wild camping is the longest trip I'd been on. The lack of suitable camping spots and the call of a hot shower definitely urged us on. As the journey had progressed I'd noticed my comrades starting to look worse for wear day by day, thank goodness I only found a mirror on day 6!

Paul Binks



Committee Decision re

Purchase of Canoe Trailer & Canoes

At the AGM in February some concern was expressed by a number of members at the proposed purchase of additional canoes and the possible purchase of a canoe trailer. At the AGM and in subsequent submissions by members, the legal and practical implications associated with trailer ownership and use were raised. Questions around cost/benefit and practical storage issues associated with acquiring additional canoes were also raised. The Committee considered these points at their meeting on 5 March and came to the conclusions that follow.

While a trailer would be useful, on occasion, there are significant disadvantages and strong arguments against; we do not intend to go ahead with acquiring one.

Income from the courses that the club provides forms a major part of the club's income. To provide courses we need coaches. Inevitably, coaches tend to fall by the wayside and so need to be replaced. The completion of 2* is a pre-requisite for coaching training and assessment and 2* requires competence in a canoe. While the training and assessment can be done elsewhere with other providers' boats we do need to have canoes for potential coaches, and other 2* candidates, to develop their skills in. We cannot reasonably expect potential coaches, who generally give more to the club than they get out, to provide their own boats for a discipline that they don't necessarily have any personal interest in. So, as a club, we do need to provide some canoes to ensure our ability to provide coaches to attract and develop new and existing members continues.

The point has been, fairly, made that members who wish to participate in a particular aspect of paddling should provide their own boats. That is true of river kayaking and sea kayaking as well as canoeing. However, we also recognise that for club members to find out if they want to participate in a particular branch of paddling they need to "try before they buy". In the same way that we provide a variety of kayak types so we need to provide a variety of canoes.

After much consideration and some, occasionally heated, debate we agreed that we should proceed to purchase 3 new canoes. Purchase has been delayed pending some reorganisation of storage space. We are asking members for help in storing these canoes.

John Kington

Wanted one Tardis (or some storage space)

Those of you who have looked in the container at the Hand & Dagger recently will have noticed that it's now full of equipment and kayaks are often left on the floor because the racks are full. This makes life difficult for members collecting boats because they have to keep moving boats around to get to the one they want, in addition to any safety hazard involved in stepping over boats in the semi-dark conditions.

The club are in the process of purchasing three open canoes and therefore the situation will get much worse. If anyone can help out by storing boats either short or long term then please contact the Quartermaster, Chairman or any other member of the committee.



Graham Eccles

Volunteers Wanted for Onerous Task

By your friendly Volunteer Organiser (Yes, we have to have one apparently! And yes, I should have kept it shut!) John Hooper.

A couple of times recently the Committee have discussed a problem with the Lock-up on Tuesdays. Once all our paddlers are on the water, the lock-up doors are being left wide open and unused boats and other equipment is being left lying around outside. This is not a new problem and hasn't been a serious one up to now. However, we shouldn't keep inviting problems, or we will get one sooner or later. Whilst we do have insurance, we should not be inviting problems through carelessness as this could increase our insurance costs. So we have decided to try asking our members to help out by taking an occasional turn on watch as it were.

If this is a practical solution it could work like this: Each week, during Tuesday evening sessions, one volunteer who is not paddling would undertake to see that any boats, etc. are put back loosely in the container and the doors closed to. This could be as easy as hanging around whilst gear is being taken out and asking paddlers not to leave anything out and ensuring the doors are closed to. They would then simply keep a casual eye on things whilst having a drink, perhaps outside if fine, or from inside if not. Most paddlers are out on the water by 7 o'clock ish. Any late-comers could be assisted where required. Putting stuff back at the end of sessions tends to take care of itself, so it's just a matter of keeping an eye on things and perhaps checking out people who turn up and take a boat to a vehicle when no-one else is around as our Quartermaster needs to know about this. If anyone would be prepared to participate in this it would be a case of the more who help out, the less turns each would have to take. Ideally, I would like to have a situation where I have enough volunteers to organise a rota where everyone does once a year! (Mind the flying pig!) And yes, I'll take my turn on it too! We could have a short meeting on a Tuesday to discuss things. It's simple, it's easy and it helps YOUR club and it helps you to get a little bit more involved. So come on folks, let's have some volunteers please. You can email me phone or text me, or speak to me or any committee member with your details and I'll get back to you.

While I'm still on this subject, it would help like mad if EVERYONE was aware of this situation and did their bit by NOT leaving stuff lying around outside anyway. Most of us are there in a group when stuff is being taken out, so it's easy enough to put the unused gear back rather than just leaving it scattered about. We end up having to put it away at the end of sessions anyway. Whoever opens up could possibly take charge of that, before heading off to get on the water, or ask someone from another group to do that, if they are still getting sorted.

I must admit I can get a bit of a bee in my bonnet about security, I worked in various aspects of it for years and I am rarely surprised at just how careless people can be. I've spent years watching people who are obsessional about doors and windows at home, and who work in a security conscious environment, walk out of their workplace, which is full of valuable stuff and leave an unguarded door wide open behind them! And they argue like mad if told about it!

So! Let's have some willing volunteers please.

And let's all be just a little more mindful of the potential problems.

***Thank You
John Hooper***

How many Boat Manufacturers

Can you find in the puzzle below?

Suzanne Thomas

Boat Manufacturers

c	a	h	n	a	r	y	p	s	g	r	p	n	w	r
i	w	h	e	g	e	e	w	d	n	o	e	b	a	o
g	o	v	y	o	i	r	o	v	b	a	a	d	v	c
o	s	u	e	t	a	r	b	e	a	i	r	c	e	k
l	n	n	l	n	l	e	n	g	r	a	e	t	s	p
d	w	i	l	d	t	h	i	n	g	s	d	b	p	o
i	r	r	a	n	o	u	a	o	k	s	d	u	o	o
u	n	e	v	a	r	e	r	i	o	a	y	f	r	l
q	m	s	c	i	d	o	m	e	l	a	l	f	t	n
i	p	e	o	a	s	o	h	t	e	b	i	a	t	l
l	o	t	g	s	r	f	e	h	n	e	n	l	h	e
e	a	o	i	a	i	e	e	e	w	w	e	o	t	e
c	u	r	r	e	n	t	d	e	s	i	g	n	s	u
o	l	d	t	o	w	n	h	i	d	a	g	g	a	r
c	l	i	p	p	e	r	d	p	t	h	e	h	e	h

Words to find:

buffalo, clipper, current designs, dagger, dragorossi, eddyline, eskimo, liquid logic, mega, nelo, old town, p&h, pyranha, rainbow, riot, rockpool, tide race, valley, venture, wave sport, wild things.

Chairman's Chat

I think before I start my ramblings I must pay tribute to our past chairman Terry, who for many years has driven this club in a most friendly and enthusiastic manner which all the members have appreciated and will miss his administrations.

Terry has served on the committee since 1993 as the treasurer and then in 2002 took on the responsibility of becoming chairman.

We look forward to Terry re-joining the committee in the near future should he wish to do so. It is a relief for me that I know I can ring Terry as a counsellor and advisor.

I am sure we all wish Terry all the best and look forward to his humour and company at the Hand and Dagger in the near future.

Chairman (by default !) How did this happen?

As with all clubs when a position becomes vacant, a new incumbent needs installing. I was caught off my guard one Tuesday evening by a press gang of club members who said I should put my name forward for the position. My mouth opened to say 'perhaps not' then the word 'yes' spilled inexplicably out and so here I am.

I thought someone else would stand, they would get the vote and I could carry on my life in its normal if not entirely sane way.

That's when it all went horribly wrong as no one else stuck their heads above the parapet: so here I am Mr. Chairman.

I am finding the job of Chairman being like being a manager of a supermarket with duties ranging through the skills of administrator, human resources, shelf stacker, checkout, customer services and finally on Tuesdays the Golden Greeter!!

Thankfully I have the support of the committee including Roy Booth our new vice chairman and John Hooper our volunteer coordinator. I will no doubt be calling on all the members of the committee for their help on many occasions.

May I extend my thanks to the committee members for their help during the first few weeks of the chairmanship.

As usual spring/ summer is here and the club is a hive of activity.

Many trips have been organised both river, canal, lake and sea: too many to mention here but a big thanks must go out to the organisers of these trips who give up a lot of time and effort to make these trips so successful.

Training goes on at a pace with the coaches delivering both 1 star and 2 star courses. These are going tremendously well with a good turnout at Windermere yesterday where the trainees tried their hand at both sea kayak and open canoe sessions for the 2 star course. At the end of the session a rescue practice session was held where many trainees had their first practice at rescues in the chilly waters of Windermere.

The development trips are well attended and in my case the more development the better! Thanks to all the coaches and members who readily help to pick up the bits when my paddling doesn't go quite to plan!

I am sure that all of the club members will agree that it is the training the coaches give freely that help propel the club to a healthy future.

As club members we owe all the coaches a BIG THANKYOU for your efforts.

The pool has been busy with open sessions, sea kayaking skills and skills sessions. Keep your eyes on the calendars on the main website and on The Forum for any activities planned in the future.

Looking on the calendar Trips are organised to Mull, Bala, Rhosneiger, Coquet Island and Loch Ken no doubt many more will pop up on the Forum which I look forward to tremendously.

If any of the newer members need to know about these trips just ask the organiser or a club member as to the suitability of these trips for the level at which you paddle.

Many of the trips are tailored to all levels of paddlers and particularly on weekend trips/camps different trips are organised for paddlers of different skill levels and styles of paddling i.e. sea, canoe white water and surf.

If any member has any issues you wish to discuss about the club, trips and organisation you can by seeing me on a Tuesday evening at the Hand and Dagger or via email chairman@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

Remember my ears are always open!
Matt Aspden

Editors Bit

This edition of the Newsletter sees the arrival of new committee members and the impending change of club secretary. As a long-time member of RCC it is quite refreshing, if not scary, to find all this change happening in such a short time frame. I feel confident that the change in personnel will herald further changes to the way that business is conducted hopefully in a positive way producing a better club for us all.

One of the most noticeable changes noted so far is the fact that the "Chairman's Chat" arrived well before the deadline for submissions. This is not something Pat & I are familiar with. The normal procedure was that Pat would hector and harangue Terry for several days by phone, email and face to face at the Hand & Dagger before it actually arrived. "Just-in-time" production was something in which Terry was a grand master. I hope that it is a skill he doesn't pass on to Matt. But in Terry's defence his Chairman's Chats were well worth the wait. From Matt's Chairman's Chat I think we can look forward to a continuance of the same blend of humour and information.

Thanks to John Hooper, our new Club Volunteer Co-ordinator, for his article "volunteer wanted", or should I say "Cry for help." Most people who get desperate take an overdose or slash their wrists, but John is made of sterner stuff and went for the Volunteer Co-ordinator's job instead.

On these grounds alone he deserves your support so put yourself forward to act as “Guard Dog” at the H&D on a Tuesday night.

If you didn't really know John that well his second article “Being on T’committee” should fill in the gaps.

Thanks to all who contributed articles for this edition, the article from Paul Binks makes interesting reading, I'd love to know about the bits he didn't mention though. When I heard that they were planning a trip from Loch Ba my first reaction was one of astonishment. On the times I have driven past it I always thought, “what a desolate and godforsaken place this is, wonder if anyone has been daft enough to try to paddle up here?” Well now I have the answer. But then again my views on Scottish Scenery are often at odds with mainstream opinion that really can't see the marked similarity between the Cuillins on Sky and Slag Heaps around a Coal Mine. Anyway thanks to Paul for his article and glad you actually made it back in one piece.

Thanks to Andy Biggs for his front page article about paddling in the Solway, as he mentioned we might need to carry passports to do this trip in the future if the Scottish Independence vote is YES.

If border controls were applied it could make things more difficult going to do a Canoe Trip. Imagine the situation at the Customs Post:

- “Can you tell me Mr Binks what is the purpose of your trip?”
“Well me and my mates are going to paddle and walk, carrying these big open boats, across Rannoch Moor.”
- “And the Coracle, what exactly is that for?”
“Oh that, it's just for carrying out the empty Whisky bottles.”

The saga of Open Canoe Purchase continues into another edition with the article from John Kington. I'm not really bothered whether the club buys new boats or not, just as long as they keep the stories running into the next edition.

Thanks for the article from our Quartermaster Graham Eccles, the picture of the Tardis was a nice touch and very apt in the circumstances. It really does beg the question where are we going to store these new boats and will the storage problem be solved before a final purchase decision is taken?

Hopefully the next newsletter will have articles about what happened at the Bala Summer Camp and Rhosneigr as well as the Trip to Mull (From Mull on a good Day you can see the Cuillins on sky I'm told, but I probably won't be looking). So take your pencils and note books (preferably waterproof ones) and jot down the snippets of information, whilst swatting the midges, so that you can get back and compose interesting articles for the edition at the end of July.

Thanks to Suzanne Thomas, whose continued Dyslexia provides us with yet another word puzzle.

Dates and Deadlines: The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd July at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on 16th July. We would appreciate all submissions by Wednesday 9th. Please send submissions to newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

Remember my ears are always burning!

Norman Green
Newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

Bala Summer Camp

20th - 22nd June 2014



The last few years Rache has organised the Ribble Canoe Clubs summer camps to Bala unfortunately Rache is not able to organise the trip from China so it falls on me to do it.

This will be my first time here so I am going to have to work from an old but successful plan. This year the Bala Camp is going to be the first camp instead of the last and will be on the 20th - 22nd June at Glan Llyn campsite, Bala. Once again, we will be returning to the shores of Llyn Tegid for our first camp of the summer and I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

More details on booking have been posted on the forum but here are some of the previous camps highlights:

- We will be camped right on the banks of Llyn Tegid - so there are opportunities for all to have a flat water paddle around the lake (after the purchase of a permit).
- A short distance up the road into Bala is Canolfan Tryweryn (which is the Welsh National White Water Centre) which, water release dependent provides a grade 3/4 trip for white-water paddlers of 3* standard and above.
- The Lower Tryweryn is a great grade 2/3 (with a grade 4 which can be portaged) trip. More details can be found on www.ukrafting.co.uk.
- Also nearby is Coed y Brenin, the largest Welsh Mountain Bike centre. It's around 20 minutes' drive away and has a fantastic variety of mountain bike trails of various grades and walks.
- Then there is the traditional Saturday night BBQ which takes place come rain or shine!
- Last but not least – for those interested I will be running a canoe three star skills session on the Saturday.

If I have whetted your appetite for a summer Welsh weekend adventure then all you need to do is contact the campsite direct to book your pitch – Prices and T&C's are on the forum.

The telephone number displayed on their website www.glanllyn.com (01678 540227 or 01678 540441) and I have also had a quick response via their email address - info@glanllyn.com

Graham Kingaby

Anglesey Camp Rhosneigr

11th -13th July



This year's Rhosneigr camp will take place over the weekend 11 – 13 July. If you've been before you'll know the script. If not, read on.

Since time immemorial Ribble members have congregated on Anglesey in July for a weekend of jollity by the seaside and many tales have been told of antics real, imagined, and possibly hallucinated. The original premise, which remains at the heart of the weekend, is surf – on the sea, in kayaks. Most kayaks will surf after a fashion – modern river boats with planing hulls are ideal. As surf cannot be guaranteed sea kayaking is another favoured activity. Those members who have the use of sea kayaks tend to take on more ambitious day trips (the Skerries last year), but shorter excursions are possible in river boats – perhaps over to Rhoscolyn Beacon to see the seals. Others simply play on the beach – whatever suits.

It's not compulsory, but Saturday night is invariably barbecue night – bring something to incinerate and maybe something to wash it down with. Alternatively there is a chip shop and a couple of pubs in the village.

Most people arrive Friday evening and leave Sunday. If you want to arrive earlier or stay longer please arrange that with the campsite.

We will be camping at our usual site – Bodfan Farm (www.bodfanfarm.co.uk). Their website has details of how to get there and site fees. It's not particularly sophisticated, but it's clean, friendly, has plenty of space and the nice hot showers only cost 20p. I've made a reservation for "around 40" – so no need to book direct, just let me know you're coming via the forum. If you're intending to bring a caravan and/or want electric hook up please arrange that directly with the campsite. I'm led to believe that there are things called "B&Bs" in the vicinity, which some degenerate types have taken to using, but can't offer any recommendations.

John Kington

LOCH KEN: THE RETURN

12th – 14th September



Due to the success and popularity of club trip last year to the waters of Loch Ken, I'm organising a return trip this year. This time it'll be over the weekend of Friday 12th to Sunday 14th September.

Last year folks started arriving on the Friday afternoon and went for a late afternoon paddle. In the evening we had a BBQ and drinks. The following morning; set off on an exploration down the loch and back in time for another BBQ and drinks. Sunday morning saw a few hardy souls set across the loch and down the river River Dee. Then reluctantly we made our way back to the 21st century in the afternoon.

This time, for those who went last year, there's a longish trip that can be done down the loch to Threave Castle. There is also the opportunity of paddling on the River Dee and possibly the secluded Woodhall Loch.

As it is still a bit away off in the future, there is no rush to book your place – yet. Speaking of which I think the best thing to do pay me the £20 deposit by the end of July and I'll make a block booking, as I did last year, so that we can be all together for the evening's festivities.

On a serious note, please be aware that the loch is home to an invasive population of American Crayfish. So to stop the spread of any larvae please ensure that all your kit is thoroughly dry before going on your next trip.

Here's a link for the camp site which gives prices along with terms and conditions

<http://www.lochkenholidaypark.co.uk/camping-touring-loch-ken.php>

David Sutton

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
23 May	Open		Matt Aspden	Brian Woodhouse
30 May	Open		Paul Smith	John Hooper
06 June	2 Star	Graham Kingaby	Adam Fielder	Graham Kingaby
13 June	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Will Body	Allan Hacking
20 June	Open		Rick Turner	Mark Shaw
27 June	Fun And Games	Gareth Jones	Sarah Jones	Gareth Jones

Note: The next pool sessions after the 27th June will be September. Details in July Newsletter.

Prices for pool sessions: Rolling Course £20 plus club membership. **All other sessions £5**

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

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

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

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

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

Ribble CC Library

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

General

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

DVD - BCU 'Go Paddling' 2012

Touring & Sea Kayaking

An Atlas of the English Lakes
Canal Companion: Cheshire Ring
Touring 100 Paddles in England
Welsh Sea Kayaking Guidebook
Northern England & IOM Sea Kayaking
Scottish Sea Kayak Trail
Scottish Canoe Touring
Great Glen Canoe Trail
Anglesey Info Pack
Scottish Sea Kayaking Guidebook
The Outer Hebrides Sea Kayaking Guidebook

Sea Kayak Navigation

Complete Book of Sea Kayaking
Sea Kayaker Deep Trouble

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

Canoeing/Open Boating

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

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

Whitewater

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

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

Rolling

Bombproof Roll and Beyond!
Eskimo Rolling for Survival


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

Club or Club Members Trips

DVD - Mags Brayfield in Nepal
DVD - It's Different Every Time - Halton Rapids
DVD - Fort William 2005/06 Easter Trip
DVD - RCC Scotland trip 2007 & 2008
DVD - Tay Descent 2011
DVD – Ladies Day at Washburn August 2013

Expeditions/Adventure/Action

On Celtic Tides
Dancing with Waves
The Canoe Boys
Three Men in a Boat
DVD - Revenge of the Fat Cats (Greenland)
DVD - The Cockleshell Heroes (wartime adventure)
DVD - Tatshenshini/Alsek 2007
DVD - Mountain River Movie (Canada)
DVD - Liffey Descent 1992

	Ribble CC Contact List	Committee	General Information	Access	Courses	Instructor	Hand & Dagger Key holder	Touring Trips	Beginners River Trips	Intermediate River Trips	Advanced River Trips	Sea Trips	Open Canoes	Surfing	Beginners' Slalom	Advanced Slalom	Polo	Freestyle	Other
Albert & Kath Risely							☺	☺											Library
Allan Hacking		☺			☺	☺	☺		☺	☺		☺	☺						
Brian Woodhouse		☺	☺	☺				☺	☺	☺									
Gareth Jones		Secretary																	
Graham Eccles		☺					☺												Quartermaster
Graham Kingaby		☺			☺	☺	☺						☺						Webmaster
John Hooper		☺					☺												
John Kington		☺								☺				☺					
Jude Smith		Treasurer																	Treasurer
Karen Brown		☺																	Club Welfare Officer
Lucy Bailey		☺																	Youth Rep
Mark Shaw		☺													☺	☺	☺	☺	Competition Secretary
Matt Aspden		Chairman	☺				☺												
Norman & Pat Green		☺						☺					☺						Newsletter
Pat Green		Membership																	Membership Secretary
Paula Sharples		☺																	
Roy Booth		Vice Chairman			☺	☺	☺		☺										
Stuart Bailey		☺																	

Additional Key Holders: Andy Dowe, Rick Turner, Tony Morgan

NOTE: Last minute trips are often arranged and posted on the website forum, generally under “Trips & Events” or “Coaching & Training” or arranged verbally at the Hand & Dagger on Tuesdays or at Fulwood on Friday (RCC pool nights).
If you have any dates for the calendar please contact: **Matt Aspden or Roy Booth**

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.

MAY

Sat 17 May
Beginners Trip
Contact: Graham Kingaby

Wed 28 May
Washburn Children's Day

JUNE

Sun 8 June
Coquet Island Race

Sat 14 June
2 star Canoe Training Day
Coniston Water
Contact: Graham Kingaby

Fri 20 – Sun 22 June
Bala Club Camp
Glanllyn Campsite, Bala

Sun 29 June
Moving Water Swimming Practice
Venue TBC

JULY

Sun 6 July
2 star Canoe Training Day
Coniston Water
Contact: Graham Kingaby

Fri 11 – Sun 13 July
Rhosneigr surf/sea paddling camp
Bodfan Farm Campsite,
Rhosneigr, Anglesey
Contact: John Kington

Sat 19 July
2 star assessment day
Coniston Water

Sun 20 July
Paddling Fun Day
Coniston Water

SEPTEMBER

Fri 12 – Sun 14 Sept
Loch Ken Camp
Loch Ken Holiday Park
Nr Castle Douglas
Contact: David Sutton