

TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



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BAE SYSTEMS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006

Happy New Year!



After last year's fun and games leaving our island campsite on Derwentwater, we decided to play safe this time and have our base on dry land, so the search was on for some luxury accommodation for a dozen or so keen/enthusiastic/mad/mental (take your pick) paddlers. It wasn't going to be easy, we are a demanding lot you know, it was now November and we wanted somewhere for New Years Eve, somewhere that was dry, would allow a fire, and was close to water. A camping barn was the logical choice but all were booked up, all that is bar one - Fell End Barn near Broughton in Furness in the Lake District.

A phone call to the booking office confirmed that it was indeed available but the minimum booking was 2 nights as it was a bank

holiday, the lady in the office then went on to explain that it didn't usually get booked at this time of year because it had no electricity. What on earth do people want electricity for, thought I, after all this was a camping barn and we wanted to escape such home comforts, didn't we? Terry doesn't bring a wind up radio for nothing you know. She then added, it does have a sink with cold running water, a slate slab to cook on, and picnic benches to sit at, but of all things it had a flush toilet. This last facility nearly forced us to reconsider but as it was the only barn available we would just have to put up with it. The barn turned out to have a large living/dining area with a separate bedroom complete with mattresses on a raised sleeping platform.

BAE SYSTEMS



As we watched the weather forecast for Friday 30th Dec, we realised the journey north could be interesting as a band of heavy snow was to sweep across the north west followed by rain, and 2 of our group were already snowed in across at Teesside. A phone call to the farm on the Friday morning confirmed that they had got snow, enough in fact to allow their son to run a Land Rover off the road the previous night. Oh dear thought I, perhaps now is the time to mention the fact that Bev was also a member of our group complete with broken leg and crutches that she gained on our last holiday outing. Not to worry, said the farmer, it is raining here now and if it continues to thaw you should be able to get the cars 'part way' down the track to the barn. Was this trip doomed to failure?



Don't be so negative I thought, as we headed up the M6 that afternoon, but as we got closer the snow got deeper and as we turned off the main road, my heart sank. It was a winding, undulating, snowy track stretching for just over a mile across the moors past the farm. It

took 4 or 5 attempts to negotiate a couple of the uphill twisty bits but we eventually got to the farm and discovered that we were just behind another car from our group.

The next bit of the track was a bit rougher as it went onto the open moor, we passed through the gate and I stopped to allow Joanne to get back in the car. This was nearly as far as we got, each time I tried to set off, the car slipped back towards the gate, which only opened towards me, if I got much closer we would block the gate, and not be able to go forwards or back. This was the last attempt before I would have to go back through the gate and take a run at it from in the farmyard, leaving poor Joanne to walk after closing the gate, thankfully we found a bit of traction and slipped and slithered up the hill and down towards the barn. We had to park about 150 yards away as the final bit of track was impossible in the conditions without a Land Rover, so we parked beside Steve and a rather worried looking Bev, who had just arrived.

Steve and I considered the situation and wondered about getting Bev in one of the kayaks and sledging her down to the barn, but eventually Bev walked (sorry hobbled) down the track, supported on her crutches, and with a little care we made it. It's amazing what a determined lady can achieve. Bev, I would take my hat off to you, if I had one.



Running water!

Saturday dawned grey but dry and so after some deliberations, 6 of us set off to paddle the river Crake, 5 more went for a walk around Beacon Tarn, leaving Bev sat by

Coniston to indulge in her other hobby, painting. The river paddle went without incident, it was running at a nice level, we went as far as Spark Bridge and everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day playing on several waves and features. The walkers set off from Blawith Common to go around Beacon Tarn with a lunch stop by the tarn, the weather stayed dry and it was a fine way to end 2005.

As we returned to the barn the weather took a turn for the worse and rain set in, would this be allowed to spoil our planned barbeque and camp fire? Not b----y likely!! We set about with ropes, bungees, pegs and a tarpaulin to rig a shelter from the rain. To finish it off Steve produced his masterpiece campfire mk5/6 (I have lost count), the weatherproof version.



We all then enjoyed a relaxing night with some excellent food on the BBQ's, special mention here to Mark and Helen James for the bananas wrapped in bacon which are absolutely delicious. Somewhere between 9 and 10pm the rain stopped, the sky cleared and the stars came out. It turned into a beautiful calm starlit night and with us being miles from the nearest town, the air was clear and free from light pollution, which made stargazing a doddle. I think I might even be able to recognize the plough the next time I see it. The New Year celebrations went on

into the early hours and if everyone else enjoyed themselves half as much as I did, then they had a good night. What more can you ask for, good company, good food, a great fire and some fine malt whisky, (ok maybe not quite as much whisky next year).

New Year's Day dawned bright and crisp and clear, which is more than I can say for my head. Whilst some enjoyed lovely cooked breakfasts, others avoided food altogether. All too soon it was time to pack away and cart what remained to the cars for the journey home. Whilst some longed for the creature comforts of home, the majority of us decided on a walk to start off 2006 and so we set off to climb the 'lofty' summit of Gummars How.



Ok so it is only 321m high, and we drove up the road to 200m. It was all some of us could manage (me included) and the view was superb.



The talk as we lingered on the summit turned to plans for next year, who knows what we will do?

Many thanks go to Steve for the fire and his determination not to be beaten with the shelter, without which the night would not have been the same, thanks also to everyone who got there and made the weekend such a success. Paddlers; Martin R, Kevin S, Helen

J, Jo and Steph H and myself. Walkers; Terry M, Steve S, Mark J, Kate S and Lesley H, and our intrepid painter; Bev.

Allan Hacking

Getting young people involved in canoeing

About 20 years ago our members at the time were regular canoeists with Ribble CC taking part in many trips and activities. Then a few years ago with the purchase of a club speedboat and quad bikes new activities became available to club members such as water skiing, kneeboarding, wakeboarding and quad biking etc and canoeing became the poor relation and interest from members dwindled.

With the theft of our £15,000 quad bikes and the stupid speed limit on Windermere coming into force last Easter we had to look for new activities to replace these sports and decided that a return to canoeing was a good option.

Following a successful grant application to the Young People's Fund we were able to purchase a new set of kayaks to replace our ageing fleet and just over a year ago we decided to start our affiliation with Ribble CC again.

Interest at the start was lukewarm and although we brought a few members to Halton, spending a Sunday morning in the icy cold water of the Lune did not appeal to many members (many kids these days prefer to take their 'adventure' on a computer game rather than 'in the flesh'). However 2 members Danny and Matt really enjoyed this new activity and took it to heart. They took their 2 Star last June and have been on numerous trips and activities.

They have tried out slalom, polo and river trips and have enjoyed it all. Their enthusiasm

has been the spark needed to other members and quite a few members are dead keen to start white water canoeing now. We have 11 members taking their 2 Star in the next few weeks, which means later this year we should have quite a few young people joining Danny and Matt on the water.

None of this could have been possible though if it wasn't for the help we've been given from Ribble CC members and instructors.

From Terry's monthly Beginners Trips to Dave Ellison's 2 Star course, Tony Morgan's white water course and trips, Bob Smith's rolling course, and on open and polo sessions in the baths the level of instruction, help, advice and friendliness on offer has been second to none.

This has not just been from the instructors but from other club members who have helped as instructors or buddies or have generally just given help and advice wherever needed.

A great big Thank You is due to you all, white water canoeing is back on the menu at our club with enthusiasm, and the more young people taking up the sport the better it has to be for its future.

See you all on the rivers this year and many thanks from all at Chorley Adventure Youth Club.

Paul Glucklich

2005 Competition Report

Slalom

2005 Slalom Results

Name	Pre season division/position	End of season position
Richard Draper	Div 1 Bib 116	Div 1 Position 13
Allan Hacking	N/A	Div 3 SS
Joanne Hacking	N/A	Div 3 SS
Mick Huddleston	Div 1 Bib 24	Div 1 Position 9
Helen James	Div 2	Div 1 Position 32
Alex Jones	Div 1 Bib 15	Prem Position 67 SS
Nicky Marsh	Div 3	Div 1 at seasons last race
Tony Marsh	Div 3	Div 3
Jacquelyn Shaw	Div 3	Div 2 Position 14 SS
Jonathan Shaw	Div 3 (K1) Div 4 (C1) SS	Div 2 (K1) Position 29 SS Div 2 (C1) at seasons last race
Peter Thomas	Div 4	Div 3

Above paddled 2 or more events (apologies if anyone is missed). SS = short season (after August 1st promotion to new division). Joanne and Jacquelyn also C2 occasionally and went from Div 4 to Div 2/3

2005 was an excellent season for our slalom paddlers. Established paddlers went from strength to strength and Joanne eventually persuaded Allan to give slalom events a go.

Juniors



Richard who was new to division one in 2005 had an excellent season moving up over 100 places within the division, he secured a place as reserve in the England under16 Pan-Celtic team.



Jonathan moved up over 200 places from 180th in division 3 to 29th in division 2 in K1; he also took up C1 late August and raced

through division 4 & 3 ready to start the 2006 season in division 2.

In November, Richard and Jonathan were invited to train with World Class Start as part of the England Junior Development Squad. Both are now in the top three paddlers in their respective age groups in England, both after early season promotion to the next division. They have trained over winter at HPP with Andy Maddock (GB slalom coach), and look forward to training with the squad at Grandtully in February.

Helen managed not to let bib 13 get to her and secured promotion to division 1. Helen living just 10minutes away from the Barrage is now enjoying training on Tees.



Jacquelyn moved over 150 places from the bottom of division 3 to 14th place in division 2 and is training hard in hope of early promotion to division 1 in 2006.



Jacquelyn took Joanne off to Manchester in September and got her enjoying slalom and Joanne starts 2006 at 12th in division 3. The pair of them also had some fun racing C2 together and after the odd swim or two and lots of laughter made Division 2/3.

Under 23's and Seniors



Alex spent most of 2005 season rooted at the top of division one, keeping us all on the edge of our seats (and glued to result screens), then secured the points he needed at Llandysul to get promotion to Prem - well done Alex!



Mick continues to keep all the slalom paddlers on their toes, always the person the

young paddlers aspire to beat (sorry Mick). Maybe it's Prem in 2006 - who knows?

Nicky decided slalom could be as exciting as whitewater paddling and by the end of the season, in the last race at Sowerby Bridge got her promotion to division one. Spies have seen husband Tony spotted joining in some slalom events as well, how about C1 - we could do with more?

Peter and Allan both decided there was more to slalom than meets the eye. Peter came up smiling every time he decided to test the

water at Ironbridge; I think Allan stayed upright at both Manchester and Bala, it was more gate frustration for him but for 2006 he is bib 114 in div 3.

Anyone interested in slalom and would like some dates for 2006 or just more information contact.

We also have a beginner's slalom boat (free) that would suit a junior paddler if anyone is keen to try, just drop me an email.

Polo

(thanks to Nicky for this section)

Final result for the 2004/2005 season: 4th in the league. This is a huge improvement from being last the season before. The actual results were nail-bitingly close with one game deciding the positions 2nd-4th. Unfortunately, it didn't go in our favour! We had some newbies trying polo for the first time in the league games and they played exceptionally well and got stuck in, building on the team from the year before. A special mention to Helen James and Joanne Hacking for their ability to learn by being thrown in "the deep end" and playing very well. Especially when you consider that all (bar one) of the other teams are adults.

We had one member of the team play in the Liverpool International this summer (Nicky). This was a great opportunity to watch the GB squad play in their divs whilst competing on the neighbouring pitch against more peer teams! The EWOK team that played came 2nd in the ladies class. Some of the blokes

have been playing throughout the year for non Ribble teams.

Pendle and Clitheroe CCs invited us to join them over the summer for practice sessions at Clitheroe's site. Ribble men folk made the most of this, whilst various ladies made fleeting visits. However, whenever we did attend we had fun and were made to feel very welcome. We hope to continue this inter club relationship.

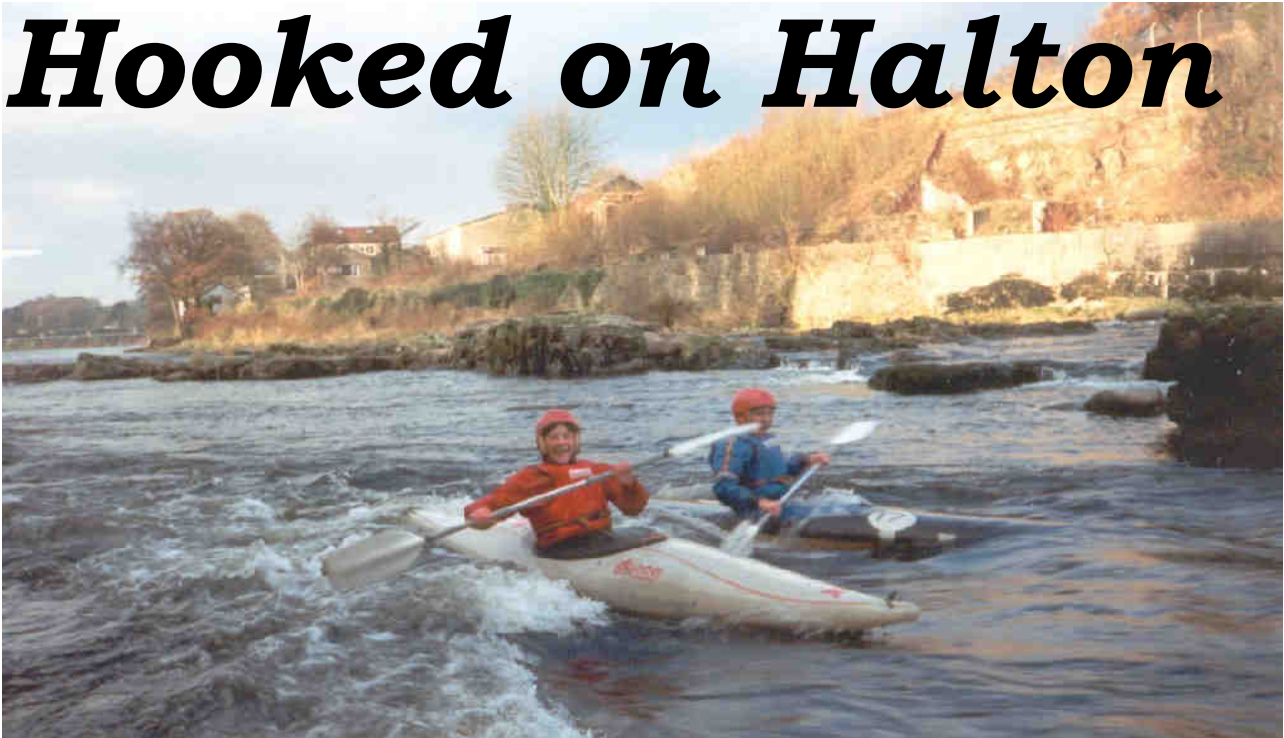
2005/2006 season. We have on paper a much larger squad, again with some more newbies. It's nice to see so much enthusiasm. However to date we have had to forfeit 2 of the 2 tournaments played due to lack of support. Fingers crossed we'll make the final tournament in March. The one positive thing from this is that we have nurtured relationships with other clubs and now are playing mixed teams with Pendle Paddlers. This looks likely to continue for the next tournament.

What I would like to do is compile a list of those interested in slalom, polo, down river racing, freestyle competition ...

If you are interested in any of those areas, send me an email and I'll send out any information I might get.

Susan Shaw

Hooked on Halton



Writing this article I am reflecting on the fact that there are only 3 more weeks when I can paddle at Halton until next November. As a committed and regular paddler at Halton I find this fact quite sad. Especially as this winter we have had reasonable weather and I have paddled every Sunday bar one.

Despite the fact that I have paddled at Halton on many occasions over about 25 years I never tire of the place. In fact someone remarked the other day that he really enjoyed Halton because the river is different every time he paddles. This is of course because the water level is constantly changing and provides a changing paddling experience.



The same area during winter flood conditions



***An average winter level of the same area
(taken from River Left)***



The river in summer drought conditions

However despite the favourable weather conditions, I have been quite surprised to find that there seems to be less people turning up to paddle than in the past, an average attendance seems to be about 10 to 15

paddlers throughout the day. In previous years I seem to remember attendances at Halton would be at least three times higher, with Ribble Canoe Club members making up about 60% of the total.

I have my own ideas why this is, but I would be interested to know why there are, or seem to be, less paddlers at Halton given that it is such a great place to paddle.

In my own attempt to encourage more use of Halton, I have put together a little promotional and historical information. Many of the older club members will know most of what follows, but I hope it will be of interest to newer members.

A Short History of Halton

The section of River Lune, situated only a few hundred yards from the village of Halton, (hence the name of Halton Rapids), to many canoeists and kayakers in the North West of England has become almost a Mecca, to which they make a pilgrimage at any time between the 1st of November and the 31st January each year.

From February through to the end of October, the river is used by fishermen and during this period, paddlers are, lets just say, not welcome. But at various periods in the past there have been exceptions to the no canoeing rule.

This has been through negotiated access with the two landowners or because the fishing season was cut short to preserve fish stocks. A shorter fishing season meaning a longer paddling season.

Between Forge Weir upstream and Denny Beck Weir downstream, the river produces that rare commodity of exciting but clean white water. A place where paddlers can test their skills against the forces of nature whilst having plenty of vigorous exercise to help keep fit.

Halton only became popular as a venue for paddling probably from the 1970's. This was

because there was a gradual improvement in social and economic fortunes of the average man in the street, after the austerity caused by two world wars.

By the early 1960's, improved personal wealth led to the start of mass car ownership, and at the same time, there was a new road-building programme in place. The M6 Motorway reached as far north as Carnforth by about 1965 and was rapidly being extended to meet up with other main roads and motorways. It was now relatively quick & easy to travel around the North West of England.

The working week was being reduced, people could afford to buy labour saving household appliances, and there was a consequent increase in leisure time.

It was now possible to buy boats made out of fibreglass, or even make them yourself. So by the early 1970's it was only natural that some people would take up pursuits like canoeing & kayaking & annoying fishermen.

One thing that unfortunately stayed constant throughout the period, and is the same even today is the law of trespass. This means that legally a person needs permission from the riparian landowners on both banks of the river before he or she can paddle his canoe or kayak. Landowners are unlikely to grant this permission if they still sell fishing permits. If they have sold off their fishing rights to a Fishing Consortium they will definitely not give this permission.

The changes taking place across the UK also showed up in the changing face of the Halton riverbanks. On the north bank (river right), industrial buildings became derelict. By the 1970's Lunese Engineering became the only landowner on this stretch. Fortunately they were very accommodating when approached for access for paddling. This had to be done under certain conditions, and usually by negotiation with their Water Bailiff. At this time the company still owned the fishing

rights and issued permits during the season usually to their customers.

On the opposite bank the railway line was closed down as Dr Beeching wielded his axe. The land was taken over by the North West Water Authority who built a water transfer scheme to extract water from the river above Forge Weir. The track bed of the railway from Denny Beck Lane to Forge Weir was converted to a tarmac access road for maintenance of their facility.

The NWWA also retained their fishing rights and sold day permits, because they were a public body the NWWA had to be seen to be even handed when granting access for fishing and canoeing. They were also under some moral pressure to allow access if the landowner on the opposite bank was allowing access for canoeing. So the stage was now set for negotiated limited access.

As a result of the negotiations, for a few years paddling was allowed at Halton out of the fishing season, plus 6 negotiated dates each year during the summer. This was on payment of a nominal sum to North West Water Authority as compensation for loss of revenue from fishing permits on those days.

Precise historic details are unclear, but some of the earliest known paddlers at Halton were teachers and Scout leaders from the North West. This was possibly because some of them were able to build several kayaks at a time for their respective groups and thus reduce the costs by bulk buying of materials and using the cheap labour of the students or Scouts. Presumably they were happy to help if they could paddle the finished kayaks.

Canoe clubs were also being started, so that paddlers could get together for river trips and other canoeing related activity. Teachers also heavily influenced these clubs. They would be the only ones likely to hold any qualifications in teaching canoeing.

It was a PE Teacher called Stan Meldrum, based at Penwortham Holme recreation

centre, who started Ribble Canoe Club in 1972. The name of the club stems from the River Ribble adjacent to the sports centre where Stan worked and paddled (at high tide only).

To my knowledge the first use of Halton for competition was on 7 November 1976, when the British Schools Canoeing Association ran a River Race at Halton. In the over 15 years of age category a certain Kevin Singleton was 2nd.

In the early 1980's there was a moratorium on fishing and the season only ran from the 1st April to 31st October. This allowed 5 months paddling and many more people took advantage of paddling when the weather was better and days a little bit longer.

Although clubs from all over the North West used Halton from time to time, for a short period Ribble Canoe Club established a strong presence there. In the early 1980's the club took over negotiating access with the landowners.

As a result of mutual good will and trust, the club was able to use on site parking facilities and HEATED toilets in the engineering works. Later on, parts of the derelict buildings were made available for storage, indoor changing and viewing. Eventually permission was granted for Ribble Canoe Club to run nationally recognised canoe & kayak slalom competitions. This permission was readily taken up and the first event was run in 1984.

At this time Slalom had a wide following with many Ribble members involved in the sport. A tremendous amount of work went into preparing the ground physically and metaphorically before the event could even take place. The club had previously run slalom competitions on the river Washburn in Yorkshire but wanted to use Halton instead as it provided more scope to develop the club and the site for the future well being of both. The size and somewhat derelict nature of the site meant that car parking during an event would be very difficult as things stood, so

members of the club built a car parking area using a hired bulldozer, gravel dredged up from the river bank below and a tremendous amount of physical effort.

This was probably this biggest of the tasks undertaken, but simply erecting a course across a river as wide as this required the combined efforts of lots and lots of volunteers. If you add to this the job of maintaining the course throughout the weekend ensuring it is not damaged by accident, vandalism, flood or strong winds and providing a canteen with hot food and drinks, you can imagine the effort and commitment required.

Running the event also required mass participation by members, members family, members friends, members family friends, members family friends friends etc etc. There were people involved who probably just came along to help because they simply “liked the social aspect of working together as a team” and were not seen again until the next slalom.

The hard work and commitment were accompanied by a great sense of pride in what was achieved and it was also an enjoyable social event, which forged bonds of friendship between paddlers from different clubs as well as between Ribble members.



The Slalom Organiser and Timing & Control organiser, at the end of a gruelling day, being waited on by the Catering Organiser in Luneside Engineering Canteen. They were more effective in these roles than Eskimo rolls as can be seen from the following picture.



The organisers at one of the Halton Slaloms testing the cleanliness of the water and the effectiveness of the safety team.

This was the start of several slaloms run by Ribble Canoe Club at Halton. This was followed in 1985 with a Div 2 in March and a 4 & Novice in June. This trend continued until June 1989.

How is Halton used now?

The owners of Luneside Engineering decided to sell the fishing rights in February 1990 and from this date paddlers have not been allowed to park cars and access the river from the Luneside Bank. Parking is now at the car park adjacent to the University Boat House. At around the same time the derelict buildings were demolished.



The old mill and office building during demolition. The Concrete archway behind the red truck is the entrance to the mill used by the club for changing during the winter. At the right hand side of this was a small office used for viewing and as a competition control office during slaloms.

The fishing moratorium ended in the late 1980's, and despite attempts in 1997/8 to negotiate extra access we are back to paddling between 1st November and 31st of January.

But Halton is a valuable resource for developing moving water skills. The river level changes constantly and this provides a different challenge every time it is paddled. However the nature of the river means that there is a paddling challenge to all levels of ability even on the same day. Relative novices can use the lower section whilst the more expert can paddle the middle and top sections. Instruction can be carried out in relative safety since there is a large flat slow flowing section of river below the rapids where swimmers can be rescued without them coming to any harm.

Anyone who paddled Halton during the 1970's & 1980's would now be struck by the change in kayak design and materials used. The glass fibre kayaks are rarely seen, and have given way to plastic ones. Slalom is less popular and many younger paddlers have bought themselves play boats, designed for performing the manoeuvres associated with white water rodeo instead. Yet again Halton can at times provide the water suitable for learning and performing these manoeuvres.

The current access situation precludes doing slalom gate training but Halton enables slalom paddlers to do very worthwhile and meaningful white water training in the winter months when there are no competitions. In the past, there have been many North West slalom paddlers who have used Halton's white water as a training ground whilst competing in the upper echelons of their sport.

Ribble Canoe Club in the 1980's was well represented in the Premiership Division, by Martin & Adrian Welsh, Steven & Kevin Singleton, Roy & Sue Garriock in K1 Class, Ian Green and Mike Wharton in C1 Class, and Peter & Paul Smith in C2 class. Sue Garriock represented Great Britain in the Ladies K1 event at the World Championships at Bala in 1981, whilst Ian Green and Mike Wharton paddled in the GB Youth Team at various European Slalom competitions.

Other noteworthy paddlers from the North West who have paddled at Halton include Paul Ratcliffe, from Tyldesley who went on to take a Silver Medal at the Sydney Olympics.



As a schoolboy, Paul attended a slalom coaching weekend at Halton run by Alan Edge, the GB Coach at the time. Candidates from Ribble Canoe Club coached Paul during the weekend. I was one of those who coached him, and despite this he still won an Olympic silver medal. Or perhaps if he had paid more attention he would have won the gold medal?

So, what of the future for Halton?

Will we ever be able to persuade Halton Fisheries to negotiate further access? Or will we ever see the law change so that paddling can take place throughout the year not just out of the fishing season?

Now that Canoe & Kayak Slalom is an Olympic event and London is to host the Games in 2012, should we encourage young people to take up paddling and train at Halton?

Should we encourage more people to take up paddling for health reasons?

Should we provide young people with the challenge of paddling to keep them off the streets and away from drugs?

Could Halton have tourism potential?

If Halton has been enjoyed so much by so many people in the past, what can or should be done to ensure it continues to provide enjoyment in the future?

What is the environmental impact of paddling at Halton?

Ramblers are advised to leave only footprints and take only pictures.

Paddlers have been known to take plenty of pictures, **but the river washes their footprints away.**

So many people have become “Hooked on Halton” over the years; it is a great shame to see its use restricted to just a few fishermen for 9 months of the year and lots of paddlers for just 3 months.

Norman Green

P.S. I am collecting information & video footage for a video version of this article. I have a copy of the Halton Slalom Video 1984 shot by Dennis Smith, but unfortunately parts of it are damaged. Does anyone know the whereabouts of any other copies that I could borrow? If so please give me a call. I have the time & facilities to copy and return it promptly.

Development of Sea Kayaking Skills

There are several members who wish to build on their existing inland skills and become sea paddlers.

Theory Sessions

I am planning to organise 2 evening theory sessions. The first will be Navigation for Sea Kayakers. This will cover tides, their predicted flow and effects, and how to plan with maps and charts. This could also be useful for existing sea paddlers wishing to plan and lead trips. The second session will cover equipment and safety at sea.

If interested in either of these evenings please contact me as soon as possible, as if more than 12 people are interested I will need to hire a room, in which case a small charge will be made to cover the cost.

Dates:

Tuesday 21 February: Navigation
Tuesday 28 February: Equipment and Safety

Introduction To Sea Kayaking

This will be a week-end, probably on Anglesey. Explore the sea caves by kayak

and watch wildlife whilst learning new skills. Participants should be about 3 star standard, i.e. it is essential to have good skills both for rescuing and being rescued. Good support strokes are also required.

We will paddle 10 to 12 miles each day. This will include sections of cliff with sometimes 2 to 3 miles between landing points.

All participants must have either a sea kayak or touring boat, short playboats are not suitable. Four club sea kayaks are available to borrow. Book early if required.

If the weather forecast is not suitable the weekend will be postponed.

Assistance from experienced sea paddlers would be most welcome.

Date:

Sat May 20 and Sun May 21. (Meeting at campsite on Friday evening.)

Andy Dowe

AGM 2005

Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the Ribble Canoe Club AGM for the year ending 31st December 2005 will be held on **Thursday 16th February 2006** at **Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club** at 7:30 for 8:00pm start for the following purposes:

1. To receive the Hon. Secretary's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2005.
2. To receive the Hon. Treasurer's report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st Dec 2005.
3. To receive a Competition report for the year ended 31st Dec 2005
4. To receive the Hon. Chairman's report for the year ended 31st Dec 2005.
5. To elect Officers and Members to the General Committee.
6. To appoint auditors.
7. To discuss an increase in the membership fees.
8. To discuss any other business.
9. To present the Club Trophies.

By order of the Committee.

Martin Stockdale, Secretary

Proposals

Under Item 5 the current General Committee members are:

Chairman	Terry Maddock *
Secretary	Martin Stockdale
Treasurer	John Kington
Competition Secretary	Vacant
Quartermaster	Steve Swarbrick
General Committee	Tom Byrne
	Grahame Coles *
	Jacky Draper *
	Dave Ellison
	Peter Jones
	Tom Kington
	Tim Langridge
	Mark Loftus *
	Clive Robinson *
	Brian Woodhouse (Membership)

Those marked * are due to retire by rotation (every 2 years). Terry Maddock, Mark Loftus and Clive Robinson offer themselves for re-election; Grahame Coles and Jacky Draper are standing down from the Committee. The Committee thank them for their help over the past years.

The General Committee propose the following members for election onto the general committee:

Competition Secretary	Susan Shaw
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AGM - Additional Information

Club membership fees have not been increased since 2003. The General Committee recommends that the club membership fees for 2006 are set as follows:

Full member	£16
Junior member	£8
Family member	£4
Affiliated organisation	£35

It is the committee's opinion that these increased fees still offer excellent value for money.

Membership fees can be paid on the night, but please note that payment on the night can **only** be accepted by cheque – no cash please!

Please arrive early (7.30) so that the AGM can start at 8.00pm prompt. Supper will be provided consisting of Hot-Pot (or vegetarian option) + sweet at a subsidised cost of £2.00 per head.



Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club is conveniently located on Garstang Road in Fulwood, just off the A6/M55 junction.

Heading towards Preston from the M55 it's on the left, just after the 30mph sign, just before the first traffic lights (Lightfoot Lane).

Raffle prizes

As usual there will be a raffle at the AGM, so if you have anything you can donate as a raffle prize please contact Tom Byrne. It can be something canoeing related, or a bottle of something alcoholic, or some chocolates – anything will go down well!

Easter in Scotland?

There are still a few places available on the Scotland trip at Easter, 15th to 22nd April.

Please contact Tom as soon as possible if you are interested.

Accommodation varies from double bedded rooms to twin bedded rooms and a bunk room.

Cost will be a maximum of £50 each person for the week.

Tom Byrne

Caravan and Canoe

August 2005

After munching chips and chatting over beer at the Hand and Dagger, (or a paddle in a slalom boat as well in my case), we headed north up the motorway to our grandparents' caravan in the Lake District, rather than southwards home to the streets of Darwen. The following day brought a debate over breakfast as to fell walking or running the river Rothay, due to heavy rain the previous day and news regarding flooding in Borrowdale. An inspection at the hotel weir and the stepping-stones being covered further up stream confirmed that it would be runnable. So Allan and I hopped over the wall by Grasmere Lake with the boats, whilst Steph and Lesley set off for a walk with Grandma. As we launched and crossed Grasmere Lake, we wondered whether there would be fallen trees blocking the river. Surrounded by an audience, we ran over the weir and began the bouncy paddle down to the first large eddy by the woods. A little surfing saw us through the little woody gorge and under the footbridge to the flat scenic section into Rydal water. A gentle paddle across Rydal and a quick lunch stop, before the second section down the river leading into Lake Windermere.

After a few practice tail squirts as we crossed the Lake, we headed under the bridge into the trees by the best rapid on the river. We paddled river left of the rock through the alleged grade 3 section down to the road bridge for a play. A gentle bibble down to the stepping stones followed where we watched a couple of walkers gingerly cross the stepping stones before we eased ourselves through, the level was falling as the water level was now only just up to the top of the stepping stones. We enjoyed paddling down the rest of the river and stopped to try some hand surfing on a small wave before dropping over the sloping weir that didn't contain enough water for a

play. Finally we dropped down to the best play spot, the hotel weir, on route we spotted a couple of kingfishers. However according to a couple of local paddlers who joined us the wave had changed in February due to flooding. This resulted in a shorter wave that was not as good for playing, as it didn't seem to hold the boats as much. We continued paddling down to the meeting point of the Brathay, watching a few more kingfishers that seemed to live around the lower Rothay.

After a bit of umming'n'aahing, we started paddling up the Brathay, as our taxi (Lesley, Steph and Grandma) was meeting us at 5 pm at Waterhead. We hopped over the Island onto Brathay pool, as I prepared to seal launch, a moments carelessness saw me in the pool in a boat half full of water with no paddle, approaching the rapid below, dad to the rescue. After a 2nd proper seal launch complete with spraydeck and paddle, we crossed Brathay pool, hopped out and wandered up the lane with the boats. A brief inspection and decision as to the best line saw us running down the rapid above the pool and a short play before one of a group of Canadians from Brathay outdoor centre ran the rapid with the rest of his group ready on the bank with a throw line. A gentle paddle down the Brathay keeping an eye open for kingfishers followed along with a crossing to Waterhead, where Lesley's mum and Steph greeted us with the taxi. Our second trip down the Rothay completed with no problems and no swims.

Friday saw us at Teeside accompanied by Steph, as many others were either on holiday or paddling elsewhere. We were a little early arriving at Teeside due to fairly late running times of 12:30 till 6:30. Steph didn't feel too comfortable on the course this time and got changed earlier than us, returning to take

photos as we played. We failed yet again to catch the top wave, Easy Rider. Why do these waves that look so good to ride, have to be so difficult to catch? Various surfs below and quite a few good spins in Happy Eater followed, accompanied by numerous supports and rolls before we hopped down to Cruncher.



Eddy hopping continued as we paddled down through Valentines and Acid Drop, that hadn't formed as it was a fairly high tide of 1.6. More runs down saw us playing and surfing again down to Happy Eater for a few more spins. More eddy playing on the waves below. As Steph followed us down the bank she asked Allan what would happen if he took the wrong line through several features, he explained that almost all the features could be got through even on the wrong line as it was a relatively safe artificial course.

He went on to demonstrate, dropping into and out of some very large waves with no problems, Valentines however proved to be

the fly in the ointment as he went into it on the right, he came out but was upside down in some very white water, he rolled eventually and concluded that Valentines is better run on the left. hopping and aggressive paddling through the forming Valentines and barely noticed Acid Drop. After squirting across the bottom pool, we were tired and ready for a final run.



A furious paddling attempt to catch Easy Rider saw Allan surfing briefly on the second wave. He paddled down through the ripples of Acid Drop, whilst I found another route around Acid Drop beside the wall shoot – paddle over the wall and river left through a channel before dropping over the wall into the eddy when the tide is low. We were tired carrying the boats back to the car for a nice shower before returning back to the caravan for tea. So who needs a B & B, when you've got a C & C – Caravan and Canoe!

Jo Hacking

Want to improve your paddling or gain BCU qualifications?

Coaching and Training for Individuals or Groups

Kayak/Canoe/Flat Water/Moving Water/Star Awards/Pool Sessions/ White Water Safety/Day trips/Canoe Camping Trips/Taster Sessions

For Details and Prices Contact Tony Morgan

Also Available: Indoor/Outdoor Climbing/Sailing/Team Building/Multi Activity Days/ Guided Walks/First Aid Training/Powerboat Training

Tyne Tourists

The Tourists – Andy W, Andy F, Ann, Tom from SOC and Sue plus a cast of thousands.

I drove up to Barnard Castle the night before through heavy rain and general yuk. The morning started grey and rainy so Mary and I nipped down to have a look at the Tees. It seemed up but not too up so we were on. Andy and I set out for Hexham peering carefully at every river we crossed and becoming increasingly worried by the number of cars with boats on going the other way. However we arrived at Tyne Green to find the water up but not too up and plenty of people still around. Rounding everyone up was more fun but finally we all piled into Andy's car, having loaded his commodious roof rack, and set off for the put-in. However we didn't get very far – a helpful motorist flagged us down pointing out that the nearside rear tyre was very flat. We then found out how many canoeists it takes to change a wheel. Answer five – three to do it, one to record it for posterity and one to eat a Mars Bar to keep everyone's strength up.

Barrasford was looking quite exciting. Fast moving river above large, foaming rapids with big waves. My immediate reaction was “You want me to ferry glide across that above that! No way.” We eventually put in (a fair bit upstream) and four of us crossed to the far bank, then shot the rapids in fine style, re-grouping at the bottom to look for Tom. He appeared confessing he'd got swept away. We then spotted the first swimmer – one of many to come. Uneventful run down to Chollerford Weir. This was very crowded and was sporting a weird little eddy behind the bridge pillars. A number of people ploughed into the trees at the bottom of the weir and quite a few more swam. We all descended safely and were then treated to the sight of someone stuck on the concrete walls near the centre of the weir. How they escaped I cannot tell as we carried on.

A little further on we noticed we were missing Andy W and Tom so we pulled over to wait. They eventually re-appeared with Andy looking a little damp and sheepish. He'd been so busy trying to get onto a play wave he forgot about staying upright. He then proceeded to rescue himself by towing his boat with his teeth while paddling backwards leaving Tom feeling something of a spare part much to the amusement of some passers by.

On then to Warden Gorge. The water was so high that anything went at the top. We then continued down breaking out to look down the gorge proper. All we could see were masses of huge waves and holes. The whole thing looked very confused and all we could do was pick a line and hope. We set off – I think I got further than last time but eventually this huge hole opened up in front of me and the wave smashed down on top and the inevitable happened – swimming again. I bobbed up in front of a line of helpful types with throw lines. One landed perfectly so I dutifully grabbed it only to be dragged straight downwards so I let go again. I was then collected by a very cheerful young man, in a bright orange boat, who had obviously practising his “keep your victim calm” routine as he asked me my name, where was I from and what was my favourite hobby. Andy W said that I should have said “breathing” for the latter. I was eventually hauled to the side by a very merry bunch of students practising live bait rescues. I trudged down the bank looking for my boat and was just thinking it had gone to Hexham without me when there it was and Andy W who had also had a swim. The people who had rescued my boat said it had half a tree in it when they caught it and that the river had come up about 5 foot just since they had been at the gorge.

After a quick coffee and a snack, Andy and I decided we should go and look further down for the others but had no sooner set off than Ann hailed us from the shore. We piled into

the eddy where she was with Andy F and Tom's boats. They had gone to watch the carnage upstream. Ann too had had a swim almost at the bottom. Upstream the chaos was unbelievable. People had given up shouting "swimmer" but were just yelling "there's another one!". One group of twenty had only four survivors at the bottom. We spent quite a while rescuing boats, paddles and other assorted bits of kit and reuniting them with their owners. More distressing was the number of trees and large pieces of wood that floated past.

When Andy and Tom re-appeared we carried on downstream. The South Tyne was running very full and the graffiti on the road bridge was slowly being submerged. We then turned the corner and there were the piers of the old railway bridge. They didn't tower majestically above us but were only showing about 1 metre worth out of the water. The huge waves between the piers provided a very sporting passage.

Further down Tom found a log which he decided to take home as a souvenir. He put it on the front of his boat where it caused him a few wobbles. The last leg down to Hexham went very quickly. Going back over the bridge to the car we could see that the three stoppers in the middle of Hexham weir were now one smooth green (or in this case brown) wave and the whole thing was being washed out. Andy calculated that the water had risen over 2 metres during our trip. We were later told that the water was pouring over the top of Kielder Dam and that they were not letting people on at Barrasford.

All in an excellent day's paddling with thrills, spills and all kinds of excitement. Warden Gorge is still in the lead (2-0 at the last count) but I'm gaining on it. Next time.....

Sue Sharman

Swale Charity Paddle 2005

I paddled on the Saturday with Andy W (of Tyne Tour fame) and Jackie, a visitor from Canada. We took our boats up to Grinton and then returned the car to Richmond where we caught the shuttle (aka Chris). We had a great run down in glorious weather with just the right amount of water in the river. Every now and then we could see the road and a few times caught sight of Chris shuttling people up to the start. It is very scenic and attracts lots of people in a variety of boats from all over the country.

Marrick Steps is the most technical bit on the river and yours truly managed to do it all wrong. A small argument with a rock at the top put me on the wrong line so I went past the big rock instead of behind it leaving me completely in the wrong place to get down. However I was still upright and with a few tactical "brace-off-passing-rock" strokes I made it to the bottom. Feeling flushed with success we continued and were only 200m further on when I got shanghaied by a

submerged rock and fell in (typical – fall in on the easy bit). Tree Rapid was nice and bouncy and eventually we ended up at the caravan park for a well earned hot drink and snack. Here Andy changed his single kayak for a Topo Duo with Freya in the front and we also collected his daughter Sarah in her kayak.

We continued on happily until we reached the bridge with the drop just beyond. Sarah decided she didn't want to do that so she swapped places with Freya. Freya really enjoyed that and would have been happy to carry on in Sarah's boat. However once she'd seen Freya run the drop Sarah wanted to go back and do it too but was told firmly "No" but she insisted on playing musical boats again so Freya returned to the Topo. We continued on, the peace of the river only broken by the arguments between the front and back of the Topo Duo. The front end was not very good at doing what the back wanted and became expert at blocking his view so

they did end up hung up on a few rocks. Eventually Richmond came in sight and the back of the Topo considered putting it down Richmond Falls to shut the front end up... (It has been done in the SOC Topo Duo by a father and son team with the front saying "Dad I've changed my mind" to which the response was "too late!")

Chris did the river on the Sunday as part of the sweep (just to make sure no-one is left behind). The children and I went for a visit to Richmond Castle and then positioned ourselves just above the falls to wait for the others and to watch the entertainment. Quite a number of people had been running the Falls as the water was just right (too much and there is a very nasty tow-back) and there was a large crowd watching, mostly composed of little old ladies out for a Sunday drive. Chris and Andy decided to have a go at the falls and wandered through the throng of little old ladies to have a look. Chris amused a number of them with his holey wetsuit bum with matching holes in his trunks! Having looked from the back the dynamic duo took to the

water and broke out above the Falls for another look. This proved Chris' undoing as he found the sharp turn onto the Falls difficult and didn't go off square. He came up ok but was half under the waterfall so the inevitable happened and he swam.

We all enjoyed the Charity Paddle which raised over £500 for some very worthwhile causes. This is your only chance to paddle the Swale as it's not normally open so if you want to paddle a lovely river, with friendly people this is a great event. This year the paddle is on 18th/19th March – see you there!

Sue Sharman

If this sounds fun then this year's Charity Paddle takes place on Sat 18th / Sun 19th March. There was a nice poster here, but the newsletter was running out of space so I had to cut it. Still, details are available at:

http://pennine.demon.co.uk/SOC/CP_docs.html

Introduction to Sea Kayaking

Easter weekend 15-17 April

Have you always wanted to have a go at Sea Kayaking?

Maybe you would you like to improve your skills?

Why not have a go over the Easter weekend? This weekend will be pitched at those who come forward but is aimed at new sea kayakers.

It could just be a simple day trip or we could make a weekend of it. We will use somewhere within 3 hours of Lancashire depending on the group needs; North Wales

to South Scotland or the Northumberland area. We will be using introductory level water.

You must be able to paddle in a straight line and know what to do if you capsize. Oh, and a boat helps.

Please confirm before 31 March.

Rick Patterson

Annual Flat Water Curry Paddle



Paddlers: Tom, Marlene, Nick, Eileen, Clive, Janet, Albert, Kath, Helen, Allan, Lesley, Jo, Steph, Chris

How many years do you have to be doing something before it becomes 'traditional'? Maybe next year this will be the 'Traditional' Flat Water Curry Paddle. The trip was almost a non-starter this year when we discovered at the last minute that the Top Lock pub no longer has their Indian chef, but hey, good real ale, a welcoming pub with good food, and a bit of a paddle – why change a winning formula?



We all congregated in the Top Lock pub at Wheelton on a cold, crisp and gloriously sunny December morning ready for the rigours of a leisurely 5 miles paddle prior to a well-deserved beer and pub lunch. The timings were all geared around opening times so you can tell where our thoughts really lay, or at least those of the organisers! We were very pleased to be joined by Helen and her parents Mark and Barbara, over from the wilds of the East Coast.

The paddle itself was very easy, and gave plenty of time to chat as we paddled along through the rolling countryside. The sky was a glorious blue and we alternated between deep shadows as we went through wooded sections and cuttings and brilliant sunshine in the more open sections. A kingfisher flashed a blue streak between us and then obliged by perching quietly on a small bush whilst we paddled by at remarkably close quarters. We passed the usual morose row of fishermen – we were enjoying ourselves, not sure about the fishermen, it's a bit difficult to tell if people don't communicate with you! Having reached the motorway bridge, the traditional

(there – I've said it!) return point, we headed back into a blinding sun. No kingfishers on this leg, but the merry fishermen were still there.



Kingfisher spotting

The pub was very busy when we eventually reached it, however the landlord took pity on us and opened his upstairs room for us, which seemed to confuse a whole succession of

small children who were expecting to see Father Christmas (he was apparently in the next room to ours). After a good meal and more than a few real ales, we all wished each other a Happy Christmas and headed off for home.

Those of an observant nature will realise that I wrote this, rather than (traditionally) Janet. Janet had cut herself on a carving knife before the trip and did not fancy exposing what was a rather deep cut to the dubious water quality of a canal. Apparently this was entirely my fault even though I was in a different country at the time, well the next room actually but I'm sure you follow my argument. Apparently I keep the carving knife too sharp! Hey ho.

Chris Porter

Chairman's Chat

Have you been out yet playing with all that new kit you got at Christmas? If not, why not? Halton's there till the end of January – probably too late by the time most of you get this ditty.

Which prompts me to remind you of the advantages of receiving this magazine by e-mail. You get it in full colour, about two or three weeks earlier than by post and of course you can run off as many copies as you want. The advantages to the club are that a lot less work (and time) by volunteers is involved and it's much cheaper (about 40p per magazine issued). We are privileged at the moment to have the printing of the postal issues sponsored (done for nowt) by BAE Systems but we had a recent scare that this may stop. If this were to happen in the future, the cost per magazine posted may rise to over £1 and the costs of copying would almost certainly influence the number of pages (ie the number

and length of articles). Someone would have to take out Peter Thomas for a start!

The AGM approaches and I hope to see as many of you as possible on the night. We need a minimum of thirty members to run the meeting in terms of our Constitution, so if less than that turn up we have to hold the meeting again and that gets tedious – and who's going to eat all the hot pot and apple pie?

We're back at The Hand and Dagger again on Wednesday nights from about 7.00pm. It's all been refurbished and there's a new menu (and Chef). Go straight past the bar and then keep going left at the dining room and you'll find us in our own little corner there.

See you there or at the AGM or both!

Terry Maddock

For Sale

Yellow Mountain bat

Schlegel paddle, spray deck, air bags, wet suit. All in good condition.

£120.00 o.n.o

Paul

Enterprize sailing Dinghy

Fiberglass, Seats three adults.

13ft long complete with everything and road trailer operational but a bit old

(new sheets and sails)

£800

Roy Garriock

Roof Bars

Paddy Hopkirk Universal guttered roof bars

Manufacturers max carrying capacity 75kg

Height adjustable

Fits most guttered panel vans, 4X4s, cars

Maximum roof width 1.85m

In excellent condition

£25

Dave Hull

Polo

December match report

On a slightly damp Saturday 3 Ribble CC members (2 girls, 1 boy) met a Pendle CC lady to head over to York to play in the second ladies NW and Yorkshire league tournament. Yes I did say a Ladies tournament so if by now you're slightly confused I'll make things worse by saying we met our 5th team player there, a lovely Sheffield Uni CC bloke.... 2 men and 3 ladies or 4 adults and 1 youth with 3 clubs represented. This was officially the most politically correct team we've ever fielded.... Unfortunately it also violated most league rules and consequently we were playing as a "scratch" team, forfeiting our right to win any games... whatever the actual score.

Well, better to paddle than sit at home watching the National Lottery. What it did create was a very friendly tournament.

We caused swims, provided rescues, scored goals, saved goals, rolled (and rolled and rolled in Ben's case), did some brilliant play (and some not-so-brilliant moments but that's the great fun of being novices!) In all we won

every game and, speaking for myself, had a lot of fun doing so.

Hopefully next time we'll field a full ladies team. But if this tournament was anything to go by, being a scratch team wasn't so bad....

Polo night report

For one, lets ignore the October sessions. I for one was too busy enjoying myself in Oz... sorry did I mention we went to Oz? Anyway back to the polo!

The January polo session proved to be a great success with a large enough turnout for games all round and many polo virgins giving the discipline a try. (Many thanks to all the ladies team out there who cajoled and convinced people to try it out... Next time we'll get Alan in the boat!) The best quote was "it was a lot more fun than I expected" and expressions of interest for a men's team.

So what are the rest of you waiting for? The next pool session is Friday 4th March. See you there.

Nicky Marsh



Are you popping out to the AGM?



Aye, I think I'll roll up for it.



Can you remember the date?

***Ribble Canoe Club AGM
Thursday 16th February 7:30pm
Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club***



Ribble CC Library

To borrow a book or video, just ring Clive Robinson or see him at the Hand & Dagger. Donations of books or videos are always welcome.

Technique:

General technique

BCU Handbook

Franco Ferrero

The Practical Guide to Kayaking and Canoeing

Bill Mattos, Andy Middleton

Canoeing & Kayaking

Marcus Bailie

Kayak

William (not Bill) Nealy

The Bombproof Roll and Beyond!

Paul Dutky

Eskimo Rolling for Survival

Derek Hutchinson.

White Water Safety & Rescue

Franco Ferrero

Weir Wisdom Rapids

Tim Parkes

Canoe & Kayak Games

Dave Ruse/Loel Collins

Playboating

The Playboater's Handbook

Ken Whiting

Sea Kayaking

The Complete Book of Sea Kayaking

Derek C. Hutchinson

Sea Kayak Navigation

Franco Ferrero

Open Canoeing

Path of the Paddle

Bill Mason, Paul Mason

Canoeing

Laurie Gullion

Open Canoe Technique

Nigel Foster

Guidebooks:

English White Water

Franco Ferrero

Scottish White Water

Andy Jackson

White Water Lake District

Stuart Miller

An Atlas of the English Lakes

John Parker

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

General:

The Rough Guide to Weather

Robert Henson

The Liquid Locomotive

John Long (ed)

Many Rivers to Run

Dave Manby

Norwegian rivers

Canoe Focus

BCU N/W Newsletter

Videos / DVDs

Tony Morgan in the Grand Canyon (DVD)

LVM Lunch Video Magazine (DVD)

Liffey Descent (V)

Deliverance (V, 18)

Extreme Sports Canoeing (V)

A Taste of White Water (V)

Wicked Water 2(V)

Ribble Newsletters (CD)

Drill Time (V)

Doubleyouess (DVD)

Without a Paddle (DVD, 13)

Donated by Adam Fielder

Whitewater Kayaking DVD

Ken Whiting

Donated by Clive Robinson

The Cockleshell Heroes (DVD, U)



Donated by Adam Fielder

Pool sessions

The following lists the pool sessions booked at Fulwood Leisure Centre, the contact for the courses and the lifeguard on duty for each session. All sessions are Friday 9:00pm – 10:00pm.

DATE	SESSION	CONTACT	SUPERVISOR
Jan 27 th	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Allan Hacking
Feb 3 rd	Beginners	Tom Byrne	Mark Loftus
Feb 10 th	Slalom	Jacky Draper	Mark Green
Feb 17 th	Open	N/A	John Kington
Feb 24 th	Open	N/A	Terry Maddock
Mar 3 rd	Polo	Jacky Draper	Clive Robinson
Mar 10 th	Slalom	Jacky Draper	Allan Hacking
Mar 17 th	Rolling	Bob Smith	Mark Loftus
Mar 24 th	Rolling	Bob Smith	Mark Green
Mar 31 st	Rolling	Bob Smith	Clive Robinson
Apr 7 th	Open	N/A	Terry Maddock
Apr 14 th	*Good Friday*	No Session	

Prices: Beginners Course £20, Rolling Course £15 (both plus club membership).
Rescue/Rolling clinic £5. All other sessions £3.

Please book in advance for the Beginners and Rolling Courses and the Rescue/Rolling clinic by phoning the named contact.

Editor's bit

Thanks...

A message of thanks to all the people who responded to my email plea for content for this newsletter. I was absolutely inundated with submissions, and I've had to carry some over to the next issue. So, if you don't see your article here, don't worry, it will be appearing in the March newsletter.

Please keep the articles coming – I can accept just about anything in just about any format! Pictures are particularly useful, but don't worry if you haven't got any. Don't worry

about formatting, just send me the words and the pictures and I'll fit them together.

Dates and deadlines

The next committee meeting will be on March 7th at 7:30 at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on March 21st. All submissions to me by Saturday March 18th at the latest please.

Martin Stockdale
secretary@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

Ribble Canoe Club



Help List

Area of Interest	Contact		Telephone	
	Contact	Telephone		
Committee	Andy & Debbie Dowe			
	Bob Smith			
General Information	Memb. Secretary	Brian Woodhouse	✓	
Access Agreements		Chris & Janet Porter		
Canoe Courses	✓	Clive Robinson		
Instructor or Coach	✓	Dave Ellison		
Lifeguard	✓	Grahame Coles		
Hand & Dagger Keyholder	✓	Ian McCreerie		
Social Events	✓	Jacky Draper		
Flat Water & Lake Trips	✓	John Kington		
Beginners River Trips	✓	Mark Loftus		
Intermediate River Trips	✓	Hon. Secretary, Newsletter		
Advanced River Trips	✓	Mick Huddlestan		
Sea Trips	✓	Nick Pope & Sam Turner		
Open Canoeing	✓	Nicky Marsh		
Canoe Surfing	✓	Peter Jones		
Beginners Slalom	✓	Quartermaster		
Advanced Slalom	✓	Steve Wilkinson		
Mens Polo	✓	Hon. Chairman, Calendar		
Ladies Polo	✓	Terry Maddock		
Junior Polo	✓	Tim Langridge		
Other	d'Ribbler's Award (swim reports)	Tom Byrne		

CALENDAR

Last minute trips organised at Hand & Dagger (Weds, 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.

River information:

Burrs 0161 764 9649

www.activity-centre.freeserve.co.uk

Canolfan Tryweryn 01678 520826

www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk

Tees Barrage 01642 678000

www.4seasons.co.uk

Washburn 0845 833 8654

<http://www.bcu.org.uk/yorkshire>

Wharfe

<http://www.bcu.org.uk/yorkshire>

Trips / Events

January

- 29 **Beginners & Intermediate Halton (Last Sun Access)**
Dave Ellison
- 29 R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria

February

- 4 Tees Barrage
Stockton on Tees 11.00 - 17.00
(tide height 1.5m)
- 5 Tees Barrage
Stockton on Tees 11.45 - 17.45
(tide height 1.8m)
- 5 R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria
- 5 **Beginners' Trip (Slalom)**
Mini Slalom, Stone, Staffs.
Terry Maddock
- 12 **R. Leven white water**
Newby Bridge, Cumbria
Grahame Coles
- 16 AGM
- 19 **Flat Water Trip**
Bugsworth (Spur of Peak Forest)
Tom Byrne
- 19 **Ribble/Calder Moving Water**
Haslingden to Ribchester
Brian Woodhouse

- 21 *Theory*
Navigation for Sea Kayakers
Andy Dove
- 26 R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria
- 26 **R.Greta white water**
Threlkeld Bridge to Keswick
Andy Rushton
- 28 *Theory*
Safety & Equip for Sea Kayakers
Andy Dove

March

- 4 Tees Barrage
Stockton on Tees 09.45 - 15.45
(tide height 1.0m)
- 5 Tees Barrage
Stockton on Tees 10.30 - 16.30
(tide height 1.3m)
- 5 R. Leven white water
Newby Bridge, Cumbria
- 5 **Beginners' Trip**
R. Rothay, Ambleside, Cumbria
Terry Maddock
- 12 **Eden White Water (12 max)**
R Eden, Lazonby, Cumbria
Dave Ellison
- 18/19 Swale Charity Paddle
http://pennine.demon.co.uk/SOC/C_P_docs.html
- 19 **R.Crake white water**
Coniston Water to Greenodd
Andy Rushton
- 19 **Flat Water Trip**
Thirlmere
Tom Byrne
- 26 **R. Leven white water**
Newby Bridge, Cumbria
John Kington
- ### April
- 2 **Beginners' Trip**
R Wenning
High Bentham, W Yorks
Terry Maddock
- 9 **R.Greta white water**
Threlkeld Bridge to Keswick
Tony Morgan
- 14-21 **Easter Surf Week**
Abersoch, Llyn Pen'ula, N.Wales
Andy Rushton

- 15-17 **Intro to Sea Kayaking**
Venue TBD
Rick Patterson
- 15-22 **Easter Scottish Activity Week**
Roy Bridge, nr Spean Bridge
Tom Byrne
- 30 **Eden White Water (12 max)**
R Eden, Lazonby, Cumbria
TBA **Bank Hol W/E**

Diary Dates

20-21 May

Intro to Sea Kayaking
Welsh Coast
Andy Dove

19-20 Aug

Experienced Sea Kayaking
Welsh Coast
Andy Dove

6-10 Oct

Scottish White Water Week
Roy Bridge, nr Spean Bridge
Ian McCrie

9 Dec

Christmas Dinner & Disco
New Drop Inn, Ribchester
Debbie Dove

Slalom

Please see www.canoeslalom.co.uk for event details and to confirm dates, or contact Susan Shaw

February

- 5 Stafford & Stone Mini Slalom
- 26 Stafford & Stone Mini Slalom

March

- 12 Stone Div 3/4 Slalom
Staffordshire
- 25/26 Sowerby Bridge Div 2/3 Slalom
W. Yorkshire

April

- 15/16 Marple Div 3/4 Slalom
Stockport, SE Manchester
- 22/23 Matlock Div 2/3 Slalom
Derbyshire
- 29/30 Bala Mill Div 2/3/4 Slalom
Bala, N.Wales

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.