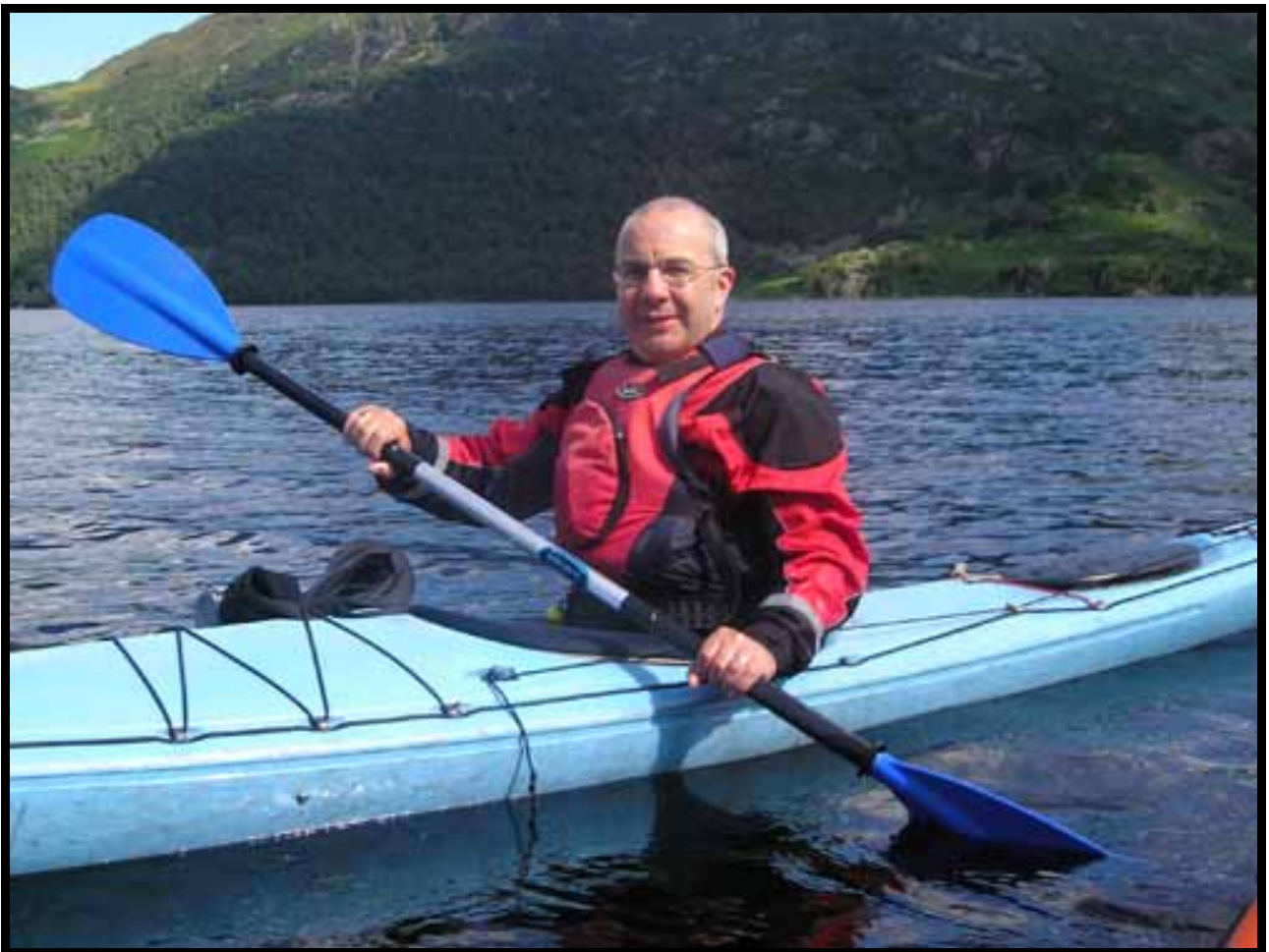


# TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

## *In memory of Clive*



*This issue is dedicated to the  
memory of Clive Robinson who  
tragically died on 31<sup>st</sup> December  
2007.*



# *Why do we paddle?*

## **31<sup>st</sup> December 2007**

On Monday I went paddling again for the third time in three days. Some of the canoe club were up in Coniston at a camping barn to see the New Year in so we chanced a trip up there in the hope of making a descent of the Crake, which flows out of the lake, with a few of the paddlers staying up there for the festivities. We had a brief chat in the camping barn over a cup of coffee before kitting up and setting off down to where we would put on the lake.



***Paddling across Lake Coniston to the mouth of the Crake***

The drivers headed off to Spark Bridge to leave two cars before returning to us on the lake to head south for the mouth of the river.



***Waiting for the rest of the group to catch up before setting off down the river***

We were paddling with a group of seven. Each of us had paddled the river at least once before and many of us were very experienced paddlers who have attended many courses on white water safety and rescue. We were carrying all the kit you could think of; probably too much. Most of us had throwlines as well as equipment to deal with most incidents that can occur on the river. On heading off downstream not much was said as

the group had paddled together on many occasions so we knew each other's style really well. Eddies were caught and we maintained line of sight for most of the trip. When we came to the first difficult rapid we followed the usual measures. Send a couple of the better paddlers off downstream. One eddied out half way down and got out with a line, I headed to the bottom so I could see all the way back upstream and watch each member of the group descend the rapid and be ready for anything that occurred. It all went well and we moved on.



***My dad descending the first main rapid on the Crake***

We carried on downstream doing what we loved doing - being out on the water, in good company, having fun escaping from everyday life for that short period. It was all going well and nothing unexpected had occurred.



***Successfully paddling the weir somewhere on the Crake***

We eventually had one paddler swim and automatically things were put in motion by the other paddlers. One paddler got the

swimmer on the front of his boat and made his way to a suitable eddy to get the paddler to the bank. Meanwhile the paddle was recovered and I dealt with the boat with another member of the group. I emptied the boat upstream of the rest of the group and then made my way down with the boat on a sling held between my teeth so if anything went wrong I could easily get away from the empty boat. Things were sorted and we moved on down river doing what we loved doing - being out on the water, in good company, having fun escaping from everyday life for that short period.



***Packing away after a successful rescue just above Bobbin Mill Rapids***

Then we had another swimmer, my dad this time. This wasn't the first time he had swum on the river, and that was dealt with promptly as was the previous swim. On this occasion we could not get the boat to the same side as my dad so a throwline was used to recover the boat. Whilst the equipment was being packed away from this rescue one paddler headed on down Bobbin Mill Rapids, which was just downstream to prepare some safety cover for the rest of the group. I followed on down and made my way to the eddy right at the bottom of the rapid to wait for the remainder of the group. Then it all happened again. Another swim.

My dad swam at the entrance to the rapids just below the weir, but because of where I was positioned at the bottom of the rapids I was unaware of this until I saw the boat and him swimming under the bridge half way down the rapid. There was an attempt at this

point to get him out on a line, but unfortunately it just fell short. From here my dad carried on down the river bouncing off the rocks in the middle. At one point he managed to stop on these rocks, close enough for me to attempt to get him on a line. Unfortunately the line I threw missed and before I could re-throw it he had moved on downstream, in the main flow onto a submerged rock.

He was now pinned, but his head was above water and I could communicate with him whilst I tried to reorganise throwlines to get something over to him. I think it took me two attempts to get a line to him and on one occasion I got swept off downstream, but managed to regain an eddy and get back to my original position. When my dad eventually received a line I tried, on my own, to free him, but the force of the water was too much for any successful solo rescue attempt. At this point I think the force of the water caused him to collapse over the rock pinning him so now his head was under the water.

Three more of the group descended the rapids, unaware of what was really happening. I now ditched the throwline in the hope of swimming over to my dad and pulling him free. I missed on the first occasion, but managed to swim to the other side of the river, get out and try on several more occasions. At one point I managed to get myself on the rock which was pinning him and tried pulling him off. All this resulted in was his PFD and cag riding up his body. I eventually had to let go and swim to the side of the river and get out to try again. One of our group had now made his way back upstream with a rope and we now tried lowering him down to my dad. This didn't work and we repeated this over and over again until another member of the party descended the rapid and made the eddy in the middle of the river, where my boat was tethered. We now had two lines attached to a paddler and we tried lowering him down onto my dad, but the current of the water didn't let us get to him. The paddler in the water pulled their harness and swam off downstream and got out to rejoin the rescue effort.

The paddler in the middle of the river tried using the rope, now across the river as a handrail to get to my dad, but this again failed. At this point, I think, the emergency services arrived and started making their own plans whilst we still tried getting to my dad using the rope in the hope of cutting free his spraydeck, which we think was trapping him under the water. On realising this was not working we now tried floating a rope underneath him and again this failed. I now moved away from the river, as did the two other paddlers, and we let the Swift Water Rescue Team free him, which they thankfully did. From here he was flown to Furness Hospital in Barrow where they worked on him for over four hours trying to bring his core temperature up before trying to start his heart. This didn't work and unfortunately he was pronounced dead soon after.

My heartfelt thanks go out to all the Fire Services, Ambulance Crews, Police Officers, the crew of the RAF Sea King helicopter, locals of Spark Bridge, the doctors and nurses of Furness Hospital who worked continuously for four hours on my dad, as well as the two paddlers, and my friends, Tony Morgan and Martin Russell who continuously jumped into the river to try and free my dad without considering the danger they were putting themselves in.

I now am really struggling to think why we go paddling? Yes it's something I loved doing, and something my dad and mum loved to do, but really can I say that anymore after what has happened and what I have seen. We both accepted the risks involved in what we did for 'fun' and the people we paddled with as well as ourselves always treated each other's safety as a major concern. So much so that I never really expected anything like the events of New Years Eve to happen to my friends, me or my father. Unfortunately they did, but this does not mean paddling is gone from my life, like it has done for my father. He would have wanted me to carry on what I love to do and I think it may be one of the best ways in which I can come to terms with what has happened. Paddling in the past has provided me with



much solace when things in other areas of my life have not gone to plan. Let's just hope it helps when I need it the most.

Some people may think that it is weird, disrespectful or wrong of me to be so vocal in what I have written so close to the tragic events of only four days ago, but it has, in some strange way help start healing wounds, that will be left unhealed for a long time. I think it has prevented any speculation or gossip being created by imaginative minds that may feel that in the same situation they could have done something different, when deep down, even though at times I don't think it, I know I, and everyone else involved did what they could to help a man who got into

trouble doing something he always looked forward to.

He will always be with me on the river and I am sure we will meet up in an eddy somewhere one day and he'll just ask where I've been and what have I been up to. I'm sure I will have a long answer for him.

Messages of condolence can be found here ([www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?t=32009](http://www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?t=32009)) and they have helped greatly in this hard time.

***Good lines, stay safe and see you on the wet stuff...***

***Iain Robinson***

[rockratrobinson.blogspot.com](http://rockratrobinson.blogspot.com)

# ***Halton Access***



Just a reminder that we now have access at Halton Rapids until 15 March and from the 16-31 March with prior agreement. Please contact me if you want to paddle between 16-31 and I will contact the water bailiff on your behalf.

If it stops raining for long enough the water levels should drop and make it once more a very pleasurable place to paddle.



In the meantime here are a couple of pictures taken in early January, the water was quite high then, but it was still OK to paddle, but not for the faint hearted – I stood on the bank taking the pictures.

***Pat Green***



***Are you popping out  
to the AGM?***



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



***Did you know they've got  
the date right this year?***

***Ribble Canoe Club AGM  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm  
Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club***



# ***AGM 2007***

## ***Agenda***

Notice is hereby given that the Ribble Canoe Club AGM for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 will be held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008** 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 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007.
2. To receive the Hon. Treasurer's report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007.
3. To receive the Competition Secretary's report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007
4. To receive the Hon. Chairman's report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007.
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.

***Antony Marsh, Secretary***

## ***Proposals***

Under Item 5 the current General Committee members are:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Chairman              | Terry Maddock *                             |
| Secretary             | Antony Marsh (Standing down from Committee) |
| Treasurer             | Kath Risely                                 |
| Competition Secretary | Susan Shaw (Standing down from Committee)   |
| Quartermaster         | Steve Swarbrick                             |
| General Committee     | Tom Byrne                                   |
|                       | Grant Dillon                                |
|                       | Mark Dillon                                 |
|                       | Adam Fielder                                |
|                       | Allan Hacking                               |
|                       | Peter Jones                                 |
|                       | John Kington                                |
|                       | Mark Loftus *                               |
|                       | Nicky Marsh                                 |
|                       | Iain Robinson                               |
|                       | Martin Stockdale                            |
|                       | Brian Woodhouse (Membership)                |

Those marked \* are due to retire by rotation (every 2 years) and offer themselves for re-election.

Antony Marsh and Susan Shaw 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 | Allan Hacking |
| General Committee     | Alison Nelson |

## ***AGM - Additional Information***

Club membership fees have not been increased since 2006. The General Committee recommends that the club membership fees for 2008 are set as follows:

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Full member             | £20 |
| Junior member           | £10 |
| 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!

# ***For Sale***

**Stunt bat (red) with buoyancy bags**  
£ 150.00 (negotiable)

**Two paddles**  
£ 5.00 each

**Buoyancy aid – small**  
£ 5.00

**Wet cagoule – small**  
£ 5.00

**Wet suit – short sleeved**  
(marked XL, but that seems generous)  
£ 20.00

**Contact: Clare Garside**



# Trouble at Teesside

Christmas was over and it was time to test our canoeing presents, so off we went to Teesside. The paddling team consisted of two Nelsons, two Dillons, Adam, Craig, Darren and a late visit by Oliver Bamber. We were accompanied by our camera man - dog handler - catering manager (my mum) and spectators too numerous to mention (well Peter, Danielle and Oliver's dad anyway).

The tide was 1.5 metres so we were going to be introduced to Valentines and Acid Drop, both flooded out on our previous 2.4 metre visit. What an introduction it was, after our first run most of our canoes were floating upside down in the pool below Acid Drop, it looked like the Bermuda Triangle on a bad day. As the day went on more of us were staying the right way up, were we getting more skilful? No, the tide was coming in and the drops were getting smaller. Despite this, one determined member of the team (Adam of course) still managed a spectacular spill, even if he did require some help from a non-Ribble paddler (see cartoon strip or YouTube) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdzOO7eYkvE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdzOO7eYkvE)

By the time Cruncher had disappeared we decided the course was now too tame so we retired to count our losses. I had lost my drain plug, Darren had lost one of his canoe shoes, Craig had lost his car key and Adam had lost the shine off his new helmet, well he will scrape his head on the bottom! The only people not to abandon ship (nice name for swimming) during the day were Oliver (started late) and Grant (finished early).

Even the trip home was not without incident. As we followed Craig along the A66 he suddenly turned off up a country lane, call of nature we thought and carried on, but no, his sat nav system had got bored with motorways and decided to take him home the scenic route through the Yorkshire Dales. 120 miles of country lanes and lots of frightened rabbits and sheep later, he eventually arrived back in Preston.



*The Teesside Formation Paddling Team*

Finally for anyone buying Darren a present next Christmas I have found this ad:

**MANX CANOE CO**





**£3.99 ALL SIZES**

SUPPLIED WITH 2 LEFT FEET AS STANDARD

**BAREFOOTED - DON'T DESPAIR  
IF YOU BUY YOUR SHOES  
FROM MANX CANOES  
YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE A SPARE**

**Joseph Nelson**

# ***Thunderbirds are Go!***

The Ribble Canoe Club's branch of International Rescue swung into action on the River Rothay trip. It started out as a normal beginner's trip. Terry had picked a day when the water level was perfect and had recruited plenty of experienced paddlers to look after us, but even he could not have foreseen the disasters that would strike. All went well until we stopped for lunch, as we sat by the side of Rydal Water eating our butties Tom was attacked by his can of tinned fruit. No sooner had the can sank its teeth into Tom's thumb than the rescue operation swung into operation. Thunderbird One was first on the scene piloted by Tony who having retrieved Tom's thumb from the can applied the standard canoeist's first aid of plasters and gaffer tape. Due to the shock Tom and his sister suffered from missing their lunches it was decided they needed immediate evacuation, so Tony called in Thunderbird Two piloted by Alison and her dog Gem. After Alison had administered drinks and biscuits and Gem had been stroked, Tom and Heather were flown off to the safety of Ambleside and reunited with their mum and dad.



***Thunderbird two parked at Rydal Water***

We hoped we could continue our trip in safety, but no, next came the attack of the marauding trees. I was paddling skilfully down the middle of the river when a branch reached out from the bank, grabbed my boat and tipped me in. No sooner had I hit the water than Thunderbird One again swung into action, Tony rescuing me and my canoe from

the attacking tree. Having failed to put me off white water by their first attack the trees regrouped and laid another ambush further down stream. This time we were ready for them, Darren capsized close by to distract the trees while Iain and Craig rescued me and my canoe. What a relief to reach the safety of Windermere out of the reach of this vicious vegetation.



Such was the seriousness of these incidents that a musical has been produced to warn children about the dangers of eating tinned fruit in the countryside and the violent trees have been removed and were last seen in one of the battle scenes in the Lord of the Rings.



***Peter Nelson***

# ***The Aftermath of the Crake Tragedy***

Like everyone else I was extremely upset by the tragic news of the loss of Clive Robinson on the River Crake on 31 December 2007. It is bad enough to hear of anyone's untimely death, but the circumstances surrounding it were also extremely tragic. I am sure I share with everybody else the thought that Iain, Tony and Martin showed great skill and courage in trying their utmost to rescue Clive, and their lack of success must be a haunting experience. The way in which they attempted the rescue was according to the textbooks and the fact that the swift water rescue teams did not take over immediately they arrived must be an endorsement of this fact. The team could see that they were only going to replicate the procedures already in place. If I am ever in difficulties on a river I hope these three are around.

Which leads on to the next question, what should we all do now?

I have been paddling for many years and this is the first time I have personally known someone who has perished whilst actually paddling. Yes I have heard of other deaths on river trips, but they were always someone I didn't know. The circumstances surrounding their deaths sometimes lead me to think that the victim had contributed to their fate by virtue of negligence or not following common sense rules. But Clive's incident on the Crake was not like that; he was following all the rules and still perished. This has made me consider how I should proceed with my paddling in future, or if I should indeed paddle in future.

But life goes on, and we should take sufficient time to get over the shock before making hasty decisions. We should gather as much information as we can from the events before

making personal decisions. In the final analysis, rivers are still as safe or as dangerous as they ever were, it is our perceptions which have changed under the influence of recent events.

It is probably a good time for us all to think more deeply about personal safety when doing river trips. The one thing we should all learn is that it is safer to be paddling down a river than swimming down it. How we avoid swimming is another matter altogether and one which will probably prompt much debate.

I personally would like some training in swift water rescue so that if were to be in a position like Iain, Tony and Martin, I would have some idea of what to do. It has also been suggested that the club should buy a Resuscitation Dummy and we should all be given some basic training in using it. I feel sure that there will be lots of other ideas emanating from this incident and perhaps the club should organise an open forum for people to put ideas forward.

Having attended Clive's Funeral I now know what Terry Maddock meant when he said that the club was "like a family, but without the arguments." Everyone at the Hand & Dagger was very supportive of one another, which helped us all to deal with the sorrow of the occasion.

I would also like to pay tribute to Janet, Daniel and Iain Robinson, who have had to endure their grief in a very public way. They have shown great strength of character and have been a support and an example to others around them.

Thanks must also go to Terry for his "Reading" at the Funeral service, and to



Albert for his "Reading" and for his songs recorded specially for the occasion. It must have been very difficult for both of them, given their close friendships with Clive, to perform without breaking down into a sobbing wreck like I would have been.

On a slightly different note, I would like to thank Tom Kington for ensuring that the club web site was able to perform as a wonderful means of communication during the difficult time surrounding the tragic loss of Clive Robinson. Only a few months ago doubts were expressed about the need for a club web site with a "Forum". Recent events have shown that it is an incredibly useful tool and I for one would be lost without it. Well done Tom.

Looking to the future we should ensure that Clive's spirit lives on within the club, and we should get back to the business of going out and enjoying our paddling. Whilst chatting to

various people at Clive's Funeral, it appears that there is still a demand for Flat Water Trips, these act as an excellent way for people on the outer edges of the club to be brought into contact, especially people on their own. Someone mentioned that they were reluctant to go on a club trip because they were on their own and didn't know if there was going to be someone on the trip that they knew. This situation must surely change if we are to keep up the "Family" feel to the club. I await your suggestions folks.

Finally I would just like to say that people's reactions to recent events have made me realise that Ribble Canoe Club is about more than just "Paddling", and I feel very privileged to be a member of a club with such warm, sincere, and genuine people. In fact people just like Clive Robinson really.

***Norman Green***

# ***White Water Safety and Rescue Course***

***Sunday 22nd June 2008***

Ribble CC have arranged a one day course in White Water Safety and Rescue at the National White Water Centre at Canolfan Tryweryn.

The course will be a wet, physical and hard day's training in all the aspects of river safety as listed below and by the end of it you should come away feeling more confident and comfortable in rescues and safety.

The instructor will be a fully qualified coach organised by Tryweryn and there will be one coach for 10 students. All equipment and gear including: Dry Suit, BA with harness will be provided, however I suggest everyone who decides to attend should take their own gear

as well just in case there are availability problems or they want to paddle after the course.

The course doesn't involve any boat based element and is suitable for kayakers and canoeists, however the minimum age limit is 12 and under 16s must be signed in by a parent or guardian and attendees must be able to swim. As the course isn't boat based the course is suitable for people of all paddling ability levels.

The price for the day will be between £24 - £35 dependent upon numbers and all gear and coaching is included in this price.

The venue will most likely be the Tryweryn at Bala in Wales but alternative similar venues in the area may be used if there is no release on the day. (Tryweryn is dam released controlled by the EA and water releases are only guaranteed 4 days in advance).

Why not check out the course info before booking: see [www.rivercoaching.co.uk](http://www.rivercoaching.co.uk).

**If you want to register your interest contact either Mark Dillon or Adam Fielder, contact details below.**

We will compile a list and get back to you as things are organised.

Don't worry if you want to do the course and can't make the 22nd June as we will arrange another session if demand warrants it or alternatively you could visit the Tryweryn website and book onto one of their pre-arranged courses on [www.rivercoaching.co.uk](http://www.rivercoaching.co.uk).

Transport and food is not included but there will be plenty of people from the area going and you should be able to buddy up with lifts. Be prepared for an early start and long day that will be wet and cold.

Payment will be required a couple of months before the course, and we will let you know the price when we have the numbers confirmed. Please don't delay in getting in touch as spaces are limited.

***Mark Dillon***

***Adam Fielder***

## **CT River Safety Day Syllabus**

This one day course introduces basic safety & rescue techniques, from swimming in moving water to use of a chest harness. It is designed to allow paddlers who have purchased technical rescue equipment such as throwlines and chest harness buoyancy aids to receive instruction in their correct usage. The course does not have a boat based element.

### **Course Content**

Introduction to course

- Safety versus Rescue
- Clean Rope Principle

Safe swimming

- Defensive and aggressive swimming techniques
- Eddy line rolls
- Danger of foot entrapment

Introduction to use of throwlines

- Types of bag
- Different throws
- Dry land drills
- Re-throws and throwing coils
- Taking the load
- Practice with swimmers
- Choice of throwing point
- Different throws for different locations

Introduction to use of chest harnesses

- Intro to harness design
- Safe closing of buckle
- Use of 'cow's tails'
- Practice release in river
- Live bait rescues

Foot and body entrapments/rescue from stoppers

- Floating and sinking tag lines
- Stabilisation line



**14th December** – I've been back home in Preston thirty-three days now and only just decided to tap something out for the canoe club newsletter about my gap year. I have been home before this point, but that was just for a week in September after finishing work in France and before moving onto my next contract up in Scotland.

## France

**23rd June – 31st August**



***Setting sail for France; obviously not my ferry***

A sentence to sum France up would have to be: "The best summer of my life," and that it certainly was.

I went out to France just after leaving college and finishing my A Levels to work for PGL, a children's activity holiday, a naïve 18 year old with no clue about what I had got myself into. I was a little disappointed when I received my contract for France, as I never did get placed in the Alps, where the premier paddling was, but instead I was stationed on the Mediterranean Coast working from sit-on-top kayaks just outside Béziers in a town called Vias-Plage.



***Where I worked from most days***

To be honest the first three weeks were not the most enjoyable and at times I really did wonder what I was doing out there. The work was monotonous and not like anything I had done before. Basically we provided fun sessions for teenage kids on a small section of salt-water canal just down the beach from our main operations and not once did I have to teach them sculling draws, T-draws or low-brace turns.



***Some of the Water Sports Instructors***

Then something changed. Maybe it was promotion to Head of Paddles. Maybe I had finally got use to living away from home in a tent or maybe I just finally realised work wasn't everything and I was there to have as



much fun as I could. Things started picking up at that point. I got to know the staff much better. I moved into a tent with one of the site workers, Ollie, who was like my big brother for the rest of my time in France. I started working on more sessions as the Assistant Chief Instructors observed my sessions. By the end of the season I was a qualified Dragon Boat and Sailing Instructor and had my snorkelling and body board competency. This brightened my working day up as I now had a variety of sessions to work in.



***Happy Hour at the Beach Bar on my last day***

One day the PGL recruitment team were on site and I went to have a chat with them. I was enjoying myself so much I wanted to carry on working in the 'bubble' so application forms were filled in and sent off to Head Office for processing and soon enough I had a contract sorted for when I returned to England at the beginning of September. My time was coming to an end in France and I was really disappointed. It was a major change from the start when I kept wishing I could be home. Now I didn't want to leave. The staff had become like a family to me and I think it would be these people I would miss the most, but I did eventually leave for England on the 31st August.

I arrived back at Dover changed. I had an amazing bronze tan from the Mediterranean sun, which shone down on us through the cloudless skies meaning most days it was well above 30°C when there was no sea breeze, I was more confident in myself, but I missed that PGL lifestyle. I think when back at home

when asked about my time in France I would reply: "I wish I was still there." It was that good.

What now?

I was home in Preston missing my work colleagues. I caught up with a few people in this time, but on the 10th September I was off again to rejoin the PGL bubble at Boreatton Park in Shropshire for training. This training would let me carry out my new job role, Activity Instructor/Group Leader, at my next centre in Perthshire. I was down in Shropshire for just over a week before moving on. Again I had met some more amazing people and was sad to leave them behind as they all went to different centres.

## **Scotland 16th September – 31st October**



***Dalguise House - my home for the six weeks I was in Scotland***

I had my boats back eventually. Both my Jackson Rocker and All Star had made it up to Dalguise, PGL's only Scottish centre, the day before I arrived on site so I was looking forward to getting back out in a kayak again for a proper paddle; none of this sit-on-top malarkey. For the first week or so I think I may have moaned that it wasn't France, but eventually I settled in.

How could I not? I was back living the lifestyle I had loved so much over the summer. I was with people who were passionate about kayaking and climbing. This wasn't that common in France and I was in

the lovely Tay Valley delivering a multitude of sessions to Scottish primary school kids.



***My line manager playing on the Tay***

It was all-good again and slowly I came to the end of my short six-week contract and again I was sad to leave Dalguise and its staff behind and go back south to Preston. All the same reasons as before applied and many more as well I suppose.



***Out in Dunkeld on a night with the staff***

### **The last month and a bit 1st November – 14th December**

I've been home. I've travelled a bit in this time: once to Manchester for a reunion with the French guys and once to Glamis to see Jemma who I worked with in Scotland. The rest of this period I've been working two days a week at the local corner shop to keep myself in money and the remaining time I've been getting back in a boat and doing some proper paddling with Tony Morgan and whoever else is available when we're heading out during the week.



***Descending Low Gill in the Lune Valley***

These paddling missions have been amazing and I think in a thirteen-day period, we paddled eight days and managed to get down thirteen rivers. I don't think there is enough room to list these rivers but some of the highlights certainly have been the successful descents of the delightful Low Gill, Leck Beck and Linton Falls on the Wharfe. It has rekindled my passion for paddling, which whilst been away has taken a back seat as there weren't that many opportunities to get out and do the do.



***Me dropping in on Going Under, Leck Beck***

### **What now?**

#### **15th December – September 08**

I've got another month-and-a-half before I am heading off again so I'll be doing much of the same: working and paddling when there is water in the rivers. However on the 13th February I will have to be back in Scotland to start a three-month contract at Dalguise where

I'll be back in the bubble and I can't wait. Already I am counting down the days until I'm back on site getting up to the usual things with the other staff and catching up with friends whilst delivering sessions for the kids.

I will be out in France again at the beginning of May and that should be good as I will eventually be seeing the Alps as, if all goes to plan, I'll be a raft guide on the Durance for no other than PGL who are even paying for my Level 1 Raft Guide Training and Assessment. How nice of them. I'll still be in the bubble, still having fun, making new friends and working with old ones and still loving the fact I'm getting paid for it all. Then it's down to studying for a degree in Outdoor Leadership in Cumbria!

## Keeping in Touch

In the seven months I'm away in Scotland or France feel free to come out and visit. I work six days and get a day off every week, but I can take holiday if I know you're popping by for a visit. In Scotland I can show you the delights of the River Tay (Grade 2/3) or Braan (Grade 3/4/5/5+), maybe a spot of climbing at Craig-a-Barns or even mountain biking in the Craigvinean Forest. Maybe you'd prefer France where sailing or skiing could be on the cards as well as paddling all the French classics. Just drop us a line when I'm in Scotland or an email when I'm in France.

Keep an eye on [rockratrobinson.blogspot.com](http://rockratrobinson.blogspot.com) where I post a lot of pictures and stories from my adventures.

***Iain Robinson***



***Me running Linton Falls on the Wharfe***

# ***BB bramble thrasher***

November sadly saw the cancellation of the trip to Teesside due to the anticipated use of the course by White Water racers that never actually caused a problem on the day after all, thanks to Helen for telling us what a great day she had when we didn't go, we really appreciated seeing your gloating comments on the forum, don't you hate students or squaddies or whatever she is now.

However the following day saw BB and I arrive at a high and rising Halton, not to be put off and full of confidence we set about the river like true pros strutting our stuff back down the section before meeting the other RCC members who were on the 3rd session of the WW introduction. Sadly it was too high

for the course and in fact had risen about two feet in the thirty minutes that we had been on the river and was now pouring over the whole of the weir at the get out. Decisions were made for the group to go to the Lakes but as BB and I needed to be home for 5pm we tagged onto an alternative OAG trip to the Wenning.

It was BB's first Wenning expedition and at the get in he was so excited he got on the river before anyone else was in their boats. We stood in awe, watching him show his skills off. From the comments made by the OAG members who don't know BB you can see how skilful he looked - can he roll, is he okay, has he been in a kayak before? I continued to



get my boat sorted as BB's air of confidence disappeared and each shout from him became more breathless. Stig, hurry up, I'll get into the eddy because its too fast to reach the slack mid river water. Sh\*t I can't do it I'll drop into the eddy below. Stig, hurry up, ahh the paddle's tangled in brambles. Stig, Stig, are you coming I can't stop here. Stig, hurry up I'm going down river. The sight of BB's panic strained face and pink chubby cheeks whilst thrashing the overhanging brambles into oblivion can't be beaten. "BB, eddy out behind the bridge buttress, I'm nearly ready" I called, and as I slipped my boat into the water I could just see BB miss the buttress eddy and get flushed downstream, can you believe it OAG hadn't even got all the boats at the get in and we were off and running. When I caught up with BB we couldn't stop laughing, the pace of the river had really caught him out and it just proves that when you're in a panic you don't think straight – or why would he have shouted for me to help him?

Continuing down the river was great fun and despite the mass of floating brambles that we had to keep avoiding an excellent trip with plenty of surf waves and stoppers to play in, it really is a beautiful trip. At the get out the big surf wave could be seen from upstream so the plan was made for us to blast through it and eddy out on the right under the bridge, all the OAG party were safely through and looking comfortable in the eddy when we showed how its done. As I was in the wave and hoping to blast through my boat slowed up as my bow buried and BB clipped the back end pushing me sideways onto the wave, with plenty of edge I stayed in control and in the space of a few seconds that seemed an age got under control, front and back surfed, did a 360 and came off the right way up. How cool is that, all those play days at Teesside had taught me something after all.

A full gathering of the idiots with the venue our favourite Teesside saw us freezing in early December. A bitter cold wind blew down the course but that didn't deter us as we bravely fought the elements for a great day out. The happy band was joined by Teesside new boy Darren, we may have unearthed a

gem here in the unlikely form of 'Damp Darren', boy was he game and didn't he do well. A first visit to Teesside and he really went for it looking to hone his skills on some tasty waves and stoppers – actually I should have said fighting to stay dry whilst his paddle thrashed the froth wildly.

Next trip out for me was a midweek dip on the middle Wharfe, a strange trip with little excitement until each major feature is reached when it really hots up. Most were navigated in my calm and business like manner apart from when I got buried in a pour-over, luckily there was nothing spectacular, just a feeble thrashing about attempting a roll before 'old faithful' in the guise of Tony Morgan rescued me.

What about River God's performance at the GB trials, a great result. He did brilliantly in the C1 class to get onto the GB squad. It just goes to prove again that quality will come to the top no matter how deeply submerged it is. I hear he is looking for sponsors and interest has already been shown by Wet-Ones.

The Dumbongo classic at the pool saw a gathering of most of the Ribble crazies - apart from River God (who was at home drinking warm cocoa with his 'older woman'), Damp Darren shone but best performance went to Craig who won 'most mental person on the night'. A following day trip to Burrs saw BB, RG and myself entertaining the public by surfing, getting trashed and rolling up under the bridge. Yes rolling up, to the cheers of the crowd on the bridge. It was freezing and once they cleared off we sat crying in an eddy before staggering into the hot showers for ten minutes of pins and needles torture of the extremities. Why does everything shrivel when it's cold? When you heat it up again why doesn't it get any bigger?

Yippee another Teesside trip was set up for between Christmas and New Year, BB wanted to burn off some fat, I know, don't say anything. A large group of us found the course running at a tasty 1.3 level and a different beast to the previous trip. The first run down was 'interesting' with several

rescues needed. A second run saw us joined by an over confident Joe Nelson who got a battering along with four others, it was carnage, but with everyone back in boats and a better understanding of the course things improved thereafter and it turned into a nice day out with a few more converts promising to come along and paddle next time as long as they don't have to wash the hamster, defrost peas, polish the dog's collar. Remember excuses for non-attendance are only valid for one use and are non-transferable, and lets have some proper ones, no more of this namby panby family over for Christmas, holidaying in Egypt, lost my paddle stuff. Sadly the only down side to the day was when

Craig couldn't find his car keys and had to be dragged off by the recovery people, still we had our keys so bugged off and left him to it, no point us all freezing while he waited was there.

BB and I paddled the Ingleton Greta a couple of days later with Tony, Iain and Clive. It was a nice trip and quite testing in a reasonably high flow. Sadly this was my last paddle with Clive, I know we will all miss him for he was a true Ribble member, a nice guy and a friend to all who knew him.

*Stig*

## *How lucky you are*

The air is crisp and cold as the last clouds of an overcast night drift clear to make way for the early morning hazy sun of a winter morn.

As you unload and change a Robin flits along the nearby stonewall trying to attract your attention in the hope of a morsel of food, in the background you can hear the soothing burble of running water and in your heart you feel the expectation build.

Good friends and good company is guaranteed today and when that's bound with the togetherness of a team with common goals you have the perfect recipe for pleasure.

It's a short walk to the water's edge and when it's completed you thrill at the sun catching the autumnal hue of the trees and the ducks floating on the water paint a magical scene. Close your eyes for a second and take in the atmosphere, birds singing, the smell of the damp earth, the freshness of moving water and the sound of it cascading over the rocks.

As you drift onto the water, then with more effort paddle into the current your body starts to relax and become one with the boat and nature. The gentle motions of the boat lifting

and rolling and the bubbling water passing along the hull gently massage your soul.

On the river bank a Heron stands majestically still, in the hope that it can catch its breakfast, how proud it looks and how gracefully it takes flight and moves on.

The water quickens and your heart beat increases as the sound reaches a roaring crescendo and the boat pitches and yaws as you apply a skill honed over years to combat that most powerful element and then you're through and looking back to see friends smiling and safe, enjoying the same thrills as you.

How amazing it is to then see a Salmon leap up the rapid on the last leg of its long journey, what a view it has of the river as it takes to the air.

The view from the river is like no other, few others ever see what you see, few others feel what you feel, few others hear what you hear, how lucky you are.

*Mark Dillon*

# *Chairman's Chat*

Given the circumstances, I can't wish everyone a happy new year but only the hope that as the year goes by, the wonderful memories of Clive will remain whilst the grief may lessen. Although it was only three weeks ago as I write this, our thoughts on how to go forward are changing each time we meet. I hope that those closest to Clive and most affected by his death will bear with the Committee if any of its decisions seem premature, or insensitive or even possibly too sensitive. No-one has written any rules, so we just struggle on with the best will in the world.

I hope to see as many members as possible (and Roy Garriock) at the AGM on Wednesday 27 February at the Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club by the traffic lights on the A6 Garstang Road at the end of Lightfoot Lane. We're still short of a Secretary with the resignation of Hollie's Dad so volunteers are eagerly sought. You should be able to read and write but training can be given if other attributes abound (eg. GSOH, NS, preferably seeking LTR).

Choosing the trophy winners was harder this year than ever before with so many likely candidates for every trophy. But they're now chosen, the die is cast and further bribery is pointless but welcome. I usually manage to pick on some Club Celebrity to present the trophies – who will it be this year? It could be YOOOOU (if you're there). Tom's kindly agreed to run the raffle again at the AGM and will be delighted to receive offers of prizes, otherwise it's all a bit pointless! Janet's agreed to take orders for clothing bearing the club logo. That's my wardrobe taken care of for another year then.

If you think you can embarrass our Treasurer this year with awkward questions on the Club's finances, you're wrong. Kath's refused to stand up and has passed the buck to me. I don't mind; I know that Roy has forgotten to pay his subs this year, so won't be allowed to quiz the committee about anything. Phew!

We changed our minds about putting application forms in the magazine as the proposed increased fees won't apply unless ratified by the General Meeting. We hope this will go through so that amongst other things we can cover the increased burden on coaching costs. This has been going on steadily for years, but with the BCU's total reorganisation of its coaching system the costs are likely to rocket. Whereas individuals were once willing to spend their own money to gain coaching qualifications, we are now in a situation in the voluntary sector where training to become a coach requires the sort of investment affordable only by aspiring professional coaches. So, in order to maintain the level of voluntary coaching the Club needs, it is in the club's own interest to subsidise coach training for Members who are willing to put the time into training our beginners. The Club will also bear the cost of maintaining the status of deserving Club coaches (First Aid courses, Coaching Updates etc).

The club calendar may be a bit sparse this edition. Sorry, but the combination of a lack of time on my part and reticence amongst experienced paddlers to take on the real burden of responsibility in being named for a trip is having its effect.

***Terry Maddock***



# ***“Hey! Have you seen that bl\*\*dy hammer?”***

When I was a kid, which wasn't that long ago really, you used to hear that at least once a week but it wasn't always the hammer that went missing. My dad claimed that somebody had gone rooting in his toolbox and every week something else had gone missing. It could have been a spanner, or a screwdriver, whatever, the actual implement isn't important. Of course nobody ever owned up to it, much to his annoyance. It was as though the shed, we didn't have the luxury of a garage and it was an old hen shed to boot and stunk of what hens lay apart from eggs, created some sort of parallel universe into which the tools escaped from the toolbox to join other such implements to do whatever they do there.

Now, believe it or not, there is some loose connection here to the art of paddlin'. I took my metaphorical toolbox on a paddling trip expecting everything to be precisely where I had left it from the previous excursion. From a paddlin' perspective this summer had been pretty poor, plenty of time on the water but most of it was on Windermere coaching 8 – 10 year olds how to paddle forwards and backwards. This has its rewards, of course, but does very little for improving or even maintaining river running skills.

Imagine then my utter dismay when put on the first reasonably swift river since forever, I opened the tool box and nearly everything had gone. Had Oliver gone in search of skills and not put them back, had they evaporated, were they long past their use by date and just dried up and gone or was I just a crap paddler? I would appreciate some sympathy here by keeping your opinions to yourselves especially if you favour the latter.

Disaster # 1, the Rawthay; in my defence, this was the first reasonably interesting river in my new boat, I'm not counting the poison

fed Irwell, and the put in at Sedbergh left me with a false sense of security with a pleasant and easy start to the trip. The first weir was simple enough.



The river progressed with a bit of a wobble here and there, nothing too dramatic but the river was certainly picking up or maybe I was picking my nose instead of concentrating, either way I started to doubt whether I was on the right trip in the first place.



Disaster # 2, the Dee; we passed the confluence of the Dee and Rawthay, this appeared too good a chance for the big boys to pass and it was decided a further inspection was needed. Once you are out of your boat and carried/dragged it for ½ kilometre it's

almost a done deal, this one was at least. Looking over the bridge at the golf course I thought “umm, I feel a swim coming on here”; now call this second sense, premonition or just common sense. Guess what?

Now then, where do you suppose a paddle goes once you have let go of it in a river, I mean it floats, it can only go in one direction, it's 2 metres long with bright white blades, or was. Despite all these probables it didn't go the right way for me and is now the proud possession of some river salvage swine or is somewhere twixt Sedbergh and Ireland. Iain came to the rescue with a set of splits and lent me his very expensive super cranked paddle.



I had just lost £100 worth of paddle, I now had, in my amateurish hands, a £250 paddle and the biggest rapid yet to come. Did I feel comfortable, not really. Perhaps that tool hadn't been packed in the first place or was and it had followed the paddle wherever that was, and that's when the doubt in your ability really starts to take over. As a consequence I experienced my first ever portage in the brief history of my paddling career for two reasons, I wasn't happy with the paddle because it a) didn't feel right and b) it would have cost me £250+ had I lost it, oh and c) it meant catching a small (ish) eddy and relining yourself up to miss a rather nasty looking hole. At least they had a photographer for their assent.



Yes, I know it doesn't look that big, but you weren't there and it was big enough for me **and** I was convinced that hole had my name on it **and** I didn't fancy a washing machine experience today.

The rest of the trip was quite miserable for me despite me telling myself that if Dan Stockdale's paddle turned up mine would too, in time. To be honest when we got to the egress I was glad to get out. The tool box was light, empty, except for a couple of litres of water, and what was in there was very rusty, damaged and dejected.

What's the moral to this? Make sure you keep your tool(s) clean (and the article come to that) and make sure before you set off that they are all present, 'cos if you don't it could work out quite costly in terms of money and confidence. You can imagine the rollocking that Oliver got when I got home “Why have you been in my tool box, why can't you put stuff back, why can't you clean it, blah, blah, blah and blah” They say it's a bad craftsman that blames his tools, is it a bad parent that blames his/her child?

A brighter day dawns, except it was raining. Lower Duddon.

Another day, another river, oiled up tools and most of them present, a borrowed paddle and a whole bag full of confidence but with a small hole in the bottom which seemed to diminish the amount of confidence I had originally packed the closer we got to the ingress.



Like most rivers, it was an easy enough start from a small beck which fed into the Duddon. I was determined to fiercely attack the eddies, dodge behind rocks, break back in with all the gusto I could muster, I had the tool box open, organised and ready for anything. Well, except for the first 'named' rapid as Tony put it; Jennies Folly.



This was a bit of a nasty monkey, that small hole in the confidence bag had split and despite my best efforts I was losing it in vast quantities. When Tony capsized, what gung hobility was remaining emptied in one go, having failed the 1st roll he happily, or maybe he wasn't too happy, continued down the second 2 metre drop upside down. Rolling up at the bottom he said "Don't let that put you off" Ha! Oh, sh!t I thought. I can't portage this. I hit the same rock that did for Tony, boat tipped, braced, head in the water, braced again. Whey hey it worked, Boo Yaa! My first grade IV rapid and I survived it, just, but survived it. My cup of confidence overfloweth. The remainder of the river was just a continual grade II with boulders everywhere, in and out of eddies, behind rocks, out of rocks with some superb, as ever, coaching when I made mistakes. Fantastic stuff.

The scenery of this river is truly amazing and there is plenty to keep you occupied with never a dull moment, I am told it needs a significant amount of rain to bring it up to anything like paddable, Tony & Iain thought it was just on the lower limit for a run, it was enough for me.



Next major rapid was the gorge, the very word is enough to strike fear in the heart of all but the most hardy of paddlers, is it safe, are there undercuts, am I likely to get cut, am I likely to swim, errmmm, the answer to the last one is a yes, but the gremlin wasn't on my shoulder anymore, he fell off when I triumphantly emerged from Marks' Folly. I **can** do this.



First to run it was Iain, but of course he didn't want the easy route nor the not so easy route and decided to take the most difficult route which entailed going over a rather nasty looking hole, catching an eddy not much bigger than his boat and then continuing in the main stream to wait at the bottom so he



could pick up the flotsam and jetsam that I would leave in my wake when I attempted it. Was I going to run this? Was I ever. The cup wasn't quite full but it was a long way from being empty.

Tony and I picked my route out which was the easiest; only thing I needed to do was avoid the large rock in the centre of the main flow. I set off well, in so much I managed to get in my boat and get into the main stream and even as far as the first drop. It was then things went a little, not so much pear but strange looking fruit shaped. I glanced a rock which wasn't visible, turned, nay pirouetted 180 degrees. This put me at a serious disadvantage, the thought of running the next 400 metres backwards didn't inspire me and that gremlin was swimming downstream at an alarming rate.



***Tony sez; "See that rock there? Don't hit it otherwise you'll pirouette and go down backwards."***  
***"Right," sez me.***

For those who have a Juice or have paddled one in the past, you know that if in doubt, whatever chaos is going on around you, you have to lean forward because there is no volume at all in the stern, the stern pirouette I was now performing must have looked like I

really knew what I was doing. The plain fact of it was, I didn't. However, the lean forward principle worked like a charm, spun the boat around and continued down the rest of the gorge. Perfect, I'd done yet another grade IV, this is getting too..... splosh, glug, swim. What happened I don't know, perhaps I'll be enlightened one day.

Despite the early bath, I thought the run was the best, best ever. Another grade IV coming up, but not much of a chance to inspect it, it was more a case of follow my line and do what I do, except if I swim. Don't do that. I ran it, I stayed upright, the gremlin had spat his dummy out and taken his ball home to do whatever they do behind closed doors.

Another first for me, 3 swims in one trip. The last one was quite out of order on flat water where the river turned a sharp 90 degrees. Having seen an eddy the size of an articulated truck, I thought to myself "I'll have that". Rather, it had me. Having completed an almost text book move, I stopped to look at what my next move might be. The water however hadn't stopped and continued to swirl round in a most desperate fashion, this was not an ideal place to be, my next move had been decided for me and with a further splosh I entered the crystal waters of the Duddon for the third time that day.

Despite my propensity to swimming that day I can honestly say this trip topped all others, I had done 3 grade IV rapids with a reasonable amount of decorum. OK, I'm not paddler of the month or even of the week, some might say I had a scabby day and they may be right but I had a fantastic time and banished that confidence gremlin for a while at least. Whether he comes back is entirely down to me, as for the tool box, it is reasonably stocked up and if anything goes missing in the future I'll know not to blame it on my offspring. The paddle, I have dismissed the idea of it being returned and so have a new one which I sincerely hope I don't absent mindedly let go of on another trip.

***Mark Bamber***



This year sees a change in the way we run both the beginners and improvers courses.

Following the BCU's changes in their award schemes we have decided to adopt the Paddle Power scheme.

We intend to offer the BCU Paddle Power 'Passport' and 'Discover' awards, these are equivalent in status to the 1 and 2 star awards, and are recognized as prerequisites for coaching awards. The BCU says these awards are aimed towards younger paddlers and they are assessed on an ongoing basis, as each level is completed the coach signs off the student's card and when complete they send them off to the BCU and receive their certificate in return, (no further charge). There is no age limit on the Paddle Power awards, and there is nothing to stop adults doing these awards.

However we realize that some people will prefer to do the star awards. The syllabus for each scheme is virtually the same and any paddler who reaches the standard for the Paddle Power award will simply need to do the relevant star award assessment (extra cost I'm afraid) which we intend to make available

in the summer. Therefore we are using the same format for our adult coaching scheme.

The coaching sessions will be mainly on a Wednesday night at the Hand and Dagger aiming to be on the water between 7pm and 9pm. These sessions run from the 1st week in April to the last week in August.

Pool sessions will also be at Fulwood pool on the last Friday of each month, throughout the year (no pool sessions July and August). Numbers will be limited at these sessions and need to be pre booked. It is intended to use these sessions both to introduce beginners and teach the 'wet' strokes to the improvers.

Other sessions will be run in the Lake District and at Hothersall Lodge where we have access to clean water and also canoes which form part of the new awards. Everyone will have the opportunity to paddle open canoes as part of the course.

The club has all the necessary equipment and beginners are encouraged to use club equipment until they are in a position to make an informed choice as to what sort of boat etc they should buy. All you need to bring to a

session is a change of clothes (you may get wet) and enthusiasm.

To start things off we will have 2 Paddle Power pool sessions in March, on the 7th and 14th, prior to the canal sessions that start in April.

The courses are available to all Ribble members and costs are as follows.

Paddle Power Passport, for beginners; Juniors £20, Adults £30.

Paddle Power Discover, for improvers; Juniors £20, Adults £30.

Fees will also be charged when using the Pool or Hothersall lodge to cover the cost of hiring the venue, currently £4 per person per session.

There is no time limit on the courses and they can be completed at your own pace. Students typically achieve Passport standard after 8-10 hours coaching, and Discover standard after a further 15-20 hours coaching.

New members and beginners should contact Tom Byrne for further info and to register on the Passport course.

Existing members & improvers please contact Allan Hacking to register on the Discover award course at the Hand and Dagger, most Wednesdays.

Paddle power image taken from BCU brochure.

**Allan Hacking**

## ***Paddle for Clive***



Janet, Daniel and Iain would like to thank you all for your support, cards, letters and donations after the tragic accident that led to Clive's death.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended and supported the Paddle for Clive on Sunday. We raised £241.50 for the Spark Bridge Village Hall.

Many thanks to you all.

***Iain Robinson***



# Ribble CC Library

To borrow a book or video, contact Janet Robinson or see her at the Hand & Dagger. Donations of books or videos are always welcome.

## **Technique:**

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

## **Guidebooks:**

English White Water  
 Scottish White Water  
 White Water Lake District  
 An Atlas of the English Lakes  
 Canal Companion: Cheshire Ring  
 Anglesey Sea Paddling  
 Welsh Sea Kayaking

## **General:**

The Rough Guide to Weather  
 Robert Henson

## **The Liquid Locomotive**

*John Long (ed)*

## **Many Rivers to Run**

*Dave Manby*

## **Norwegian rivers**

## **Canoe Focus**

## **Working out of Doors with Young People**

*Alan Smith*

## **Expeditions:**

## **Travels with a Kayak**

*Whit Descher*

## **On Celtic Tides**

*Chris Duff*

## **Blazing Paddles**

*Brian Wilson*

## **Dancing with Waves**

*Brian Wilson*

## **Paddling to Jerusalem**

*David Aaronovitch*

## **The Last River**

*Todd Balf*

## **Paddle to the Arctic**

Don Starkey

## **Canoeing across Canada**

*Gary & Joanie McGuffin*

## **The Canoe Boys**

*Sir Alastair Dunnnett*

## **Odyssey among the Inuit**

*Jonathan Waterman*


## **Barbed Wire & Babushkas**

*Paul Grogan*

## **Videos:**

Liffey Descent  
 Deliverance (18)  
 Extreme Sports Canoeing  
 A Taste of White Water  
 Wicked Water 2  
 Drill Time  
 Destination Nowhere  
 Path of the Paddle: Doubles  
 Whitewater

## **DVDs:**

Tony Morgan in the Grand Canyon  
 LVM Lunch Video Magazine  
 Ribble Newsletters (CD)  
 Doublyouess  
 Without a Paddle (13)  
 Whitewater Kayaking  
 The Cockleshell Heroes (U)  
 Mags Brayfield in Nepal  
 EJ's Advanced Playboating  
 The Chaos Theory  
 Jackson Kayak Promo  
 It's Different Every Time  
*Norman Green*  
 EJ's Playboating Basics  
*Eric Jackson and Chris Emerick*  
 Wavesport: Sessions  
 Fort William 2005/06 Trip  
 My Tartan Adventure (VCD)  
 Ribble Canoe Club in Scotland, 2007  
 The 7 Rivers Expedition  
 Locks and Quays  
*Featuring Ribble Canoe Club*  
 **The Politics Show**  
*Featuring Ribble Canoe Club*

# ***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        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>   | Rolling Course         | Bob Smith     | Mark Green    | Terry Maddock    |
| Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>   | Rolling Course         | Bob Smith     | Mark Loftus   | Brian Woodhouse  |
| Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>  | Rolling Course         | Bob Smith     | Grahame Coles | Allan Hacking    |
| Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | Open                   | N/A           | Allan Hacking | Martin Stockdale |
| Feb 29 <sup>th</sup>  | Fun Night              | Adam Fielder  | John Kington  | Adam Fielder     |
| Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Paddle Power           | Tom Byrne     | Mark Green    | Terry Maddock    |
| Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Paddle Power           | Tom Byrne     | Mark Loftus   | Mark Dillon      |
| Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>  | ** Easter – no session |               |               |                  |
| Mar 28 <sup>th</sup>  | ** Easter – no session |               |               |                  |
| Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>   | Freestyle              | Allan Hacking | Mark Bamber   | Peter Jones      |
| Apr 11 <sup>th</sup>  | Open                   | N/A           | Allan Hacking | Terry Maddock    |
| Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>  | Open                   | N/A           | John Kington  | Kath Risely      |
| Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>  | Paddle Power           | Tom Byrne     | Grahame Coles | Adam Fielder     |
| May 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Polo                   | Nicky Marsh   | Mark Dillon   | Brian Woodhouse  |
| May 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Open                   | N/A           | Mark Loftus   | Nicky Marsh      |
| May 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Safety                 | Nicky Marsh   | Mark Dillon   | Terry Maddock    |
| May 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | Open                   | N/A           | Mark Green    | Martin Stockdale |
| May 30 <sup>th</sup>  | Paddle Power           | Tom Byrne     | Mark Bamber   | Peter Jones      |
| June 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Rolling Course         | Bob Smith     | Grahame Coles | Alison Nelson    |
| June 13 <sup>th</sup> | Rolling Course         | Bob Smith     | Mark Loftus   | Brian Woodhouse  |
| June 20 <sup>th</sup> | Rolling Course         | Bob Smith     | Mark Green    | Martin Stockdale |
| June 27 <sup>th</sup> | Paddle Power           | Tom Byrne     | John Kington  | Adam Fielder     |

## **Please note new prices for pool sessions:**

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

Please book in advance for the Paddle Power sessions and Rolling Course by phoning the named contact.

# ***Editor's bit***

## **Dates and deadlines**

The next committee meeting will be on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on March 18<sup>th</sup>. All submissions to me by Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest please.

***Martin Stockdale***

Ribble Canoe Club

Help List



| Area of Interest | Ribble Canoe Club    |           |                         |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------|----------------------------------|
|                  | Contact              | Telephone | Committee               | General Information | Access Agreements | Canoe Courses | Instructor or Coach | Lifeguard | Hand & Dagger Keyholder | Social Events | Flat Water & Lake Trips | Beginners River Trips | Intermediate River Trips | Advanced River Trips | Sea Trips | Open Canoeing | Canoe Surfing | Beginners Slalom | Advanced Slalom | Mens Polo | Ladies Polo | Junior Polo | Other |                                  |
|                  | Andy & Debbie Dowe   |           |                         |                     |                   |               | ✓                   |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      | ✓         |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       | Christmas Party (Debbie)         |
|                  | Bob Smith            |           |                         |                     |                   | ✓             |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       | Rolling Course                   |
|                  | Brian Woodhouse      |           | Memb. Secretary         | ✓                   | ✓                 |               | ✓                   |           |                         |               | ✓                       | ✓                     |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Chris & Janet Porter |           |                         |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               | ✓                       |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Janet Robinson       |           |                         |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       | Library                          |
|                  | Ian McCreerie        |           |                         |                     |                   |               |                     |           | ✓                       |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 | ✓         |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Jacky Draper         |           |                         |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 | ✓         |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | John Kington         |           |                         | ✓                   |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               | ✓                       |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Kath Risely          |           | Hon. Treasurer          |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Mark Loftus          |           |                         | ✓                   |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Martin Stockdale     |           | Newsletter              |                     |                   |               |                     |           | ✓                       |               |                         | ✓                     |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Mick Huddleston      |           |                         |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  | ✓               |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Tony & Nicky Marsh   |           | Hon. Secretary          |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 | ✓         |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Peter Jones          |           |                         | ✓                   |                   |               |                     |           | ✓                       |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  | ✓               |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Susan Shaw           |           | Competition Secretary   |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  | ✓               |           |             | ✓           |       |                                  |
|                  | Steve Swarbrick      |           | Quartermaster           |                     |                   |               | ✓                   | ✓         | ✓                       |               | ✓                       | ✓                     | ✓                        | ✓                    |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Steve Wilkinson      |           |                         |                     |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         | ✓                     | ✓                        |                      | ✓         |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Terry Maddock        |           | Hon. Chairman, Calendar |                     |                   |               |                     |           | ✓                       |               | ✓                       | ✓                     | ✓                        | ✓                    |           |               |               |                  |                 | ✓         |             |             |       |                                  |
|                  | Tom Byrne            |           |                         | ✓                   |                   |               |                     |           |                         |               |                         |                       |                          |                      |           |               |               |                  |                 |           |             |             |       | d'Ribbler's Award (swim reports) |



# CALENDAR

Last minute trips organised on the on the forum on the website, at the Hand & Dagger on Wednesdays or at Fulwood on Fridays.  
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.burrs.org.uk](http://www.burrs.org.uk)

Canolfan Tryweryn 01678 520826

[www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk](http://www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk)

Tees Barrage 01642 678000

[www.4seasons.co.uk](http://www.4seasons.co.uk)

Washburn/Wharfe 0845 833 8654

<http://www.yorcie.org.uk/>

## Trips / Events

### February

**3** **Beginners' Trip**  
**R. Wenning**  
**u/s H. Bentham to Wennington**  
**Terry Maddock**

3 White Water  
R. Leven open day  
Newby Bridge

**10** **White Water**  
**R. Wharfe**  
**Linton Falls to Barden Bridge**  
**See Forum or ask someone**

10 White Water  
R. Leven open day  
Newby Bridge

**17** **White Water**  
**R. Greta (Keswick)**  
**Threlkeld Bridge to Keswick**  
**Albert Risely**

24 White Water  
R. Leven open day  
Newby Bridge

27 *Ribble CC AGM*  
*Fulwood & Broughton Cricket*  
*Club 7:30pm*

### March

**2** **Beginners' Trip**  
**R. Lune**  
**Halton**  
**Terry Maddock**

**9** *White Water*  
*R. Lune*  
*Halton*  
*See Forum or ask someone*

**15** *(Saturday) White Water*  
*R. Eden*  
*Lazonby*  
*See Forum or ask someone*

**16** *White Water*  
*R. Greta (Keswick)*  
*Threlkeld Bridge to Keswick*  
*See Forum or ask someone*

**23** *White Water*  
*R. Leven (Easter Sun)*  
*Newby Bridge*  
*See Forum or ask someone*

### April

6 Tidal Bore (9.9m)  
R. Kent  
Arnside to Levens Hall & return

7 Tidal Bore (10.1m)  
R. Kent  
Arnside to Levens Hall & return

NOTE: Last minute trips are often arranged on the forum on the website ([www.ribblecanoeclub.co.uk](http://www.ribblecanoeclub.co.uk)). If there isn't a trip listed here, check there before giving up and going shopping instead!

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.