

# TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



MAY/JUNE 2006



## *Newsletter Crisis!*

### **Something's changed!**

The more observant among you will probably have noticed something strangely different about this newsletter.

For many years now, the red line at the top and bottom has said 'Sponsored by BAE Systems'. Now it's gone!

BAE Systems has been covering the printing costs of the newsletter for many years now, but sadly they have decided that they are unable to continue with this arrangement any longer.

This was a major benefit and will be a great loss to us, but before we consider the impact I

would like to express our thanks to BAE Systems for sponsoring us for so long, and also I'd like to thank Andy Rushton for all the effort he has put into keeping the agreement going.

### **What does this mean for the club?**

Every paper copy of the newsletter we send out costs well over £1 when the costs of printing, postage and envelopes/labels are added up.

BAE Systems have been absorbing at least 70p of that cost by paying for the printing.

We currently send out about 100 newsletters every 2 months. So, if things are to stay as

they are then the club will be paying out over £600 every year just to send the newsletter out.

That's nearly the cost of two new boats!

### **OK, so what can we do about it?**

There's a one-word answer to that – email!

Email newsletters cost the club nothing to send, so every person who switches to getting the newsletter by email saves the club £6 per year.

There are also benefits to the email newsletter – you get it much sooner (sometimes up to 2 weeks before the paper copies are delivered) – and it's in glorious Technicolor. Did you realise those lines on the front page were red?

All you need to do is to email me and ask to receive email newsletters, and I will make it so.

### **Well, I prefer to have a paper copy. It's easier to read. Is that OK?**

In a word – no.

The committee has discussed this matter at some length and we have reached the agreement that the paper newsletter in its current form cannot carry on.

We will carry on producing a paper newsletter, but it will be much smaller than the full email newsletter.

The 'cut-down' paper newsletter will normally only contain the important club information – the calendar, pool rota, club notices and so on, and will probably only be a few pages long. It will not normally include any of the articles which you hopefully enjoy reading.

Even this 'cut-down' newsletter will probably cost 50-60p per copy to print and post, and since the content will be minimal we hope

that as many members as possible will choose to swap to email newsletters.

### **I don't have email. What can I do?**

To start with, I would recommend that you visit your local library. All Lancashire libraries have computers with an internet connection freely available to borrow. There are many free email services such as Hotmail which you can use.

If for some reason this is not acceptable, and you are not happy with the cut-down paper newsletter, then please write to me explaining your circumstances and I will arrange for you to carry on receiving the full newsletter by post.

Please note that all such requests must be in writing so that we have a formal record of the request, not by telephone (or by email!).

### **When does this take effect?**

Now! The agreement with BAE Systems has now ended, so the club will be paying for the commercial printing of this newsletter out of club funds.

This is the last full newsletter which will be sent out by post. All future postal newsletters will be the cut down version unless arranged with me.

### **Any questions?**

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to email or phone me and I'll try my best to answer.

If you do not agree with the decisions the committee has made, then (just as with any other committee decision) you are entitled to attend the next committee meeting to discuss the matter. Please inform me in writing at least 2 weeks before the meeting if you intend to do so.

***Martin Stockdale***  
***Hon. Secretary***  
[secretary@ribblecanoecub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ribblecanoecub.co.uk)

# *River Roeburn*

***Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2005***

**Paddlers:** John & Tom Kington

I'd wanted to paddle the Roeburn for ages. Various people had told me it's a classic spate river and the guidebooks make it sound good too. Trouble with it is it has a small steep catchment and rises rapidly after heavy rain and drops just as quickly so timing is of the essence.

You may have seen Tony Morgan's article in the November newsletter about "hunting for water". The Roeburn was one of the empty river beds we inspected on that half term outing – only a couple of days after heavy rain. It's a Lune tributary that runs off the Bowland Fells on the South side of the Lune valley, passing through Wray before meeting the Lune itself.

On 30 October, following a period of dry weather we joined Tony's trip on the Wenning. In desperate hope rather than any kind of expectation we'd looked at the Roeburn on the way to Wennington – it was dry. The Wenning is a lovely scenic river and a good trip, but the level was low and it was not delivering the big water experience that we craved. Having got on the Wenning the heavens opened – so we scraped and bumped in pouring rain. The Wenning takes around 12 hours to respond to rain so we didn't see much prospect of a major improvement so decided to call it a day and took advantage of Martin's rescue service. In a fit of optimism we decided to look at the Roeburn again on the way back – and it was up. Very up in fact, brown and churning through Wray.

Casting caution – and such basic principles as not paddling in groups of less than three – to the winds we consulted the map, worked out where the get in was and headed up the valley. Only having one car meant someone

would have to walk back up afterwards, but it wasn't Tom so he wasn't bothered.

At the get in the water was pouring off the hill, the river was bank-full and brown – and the sun came out. Water and sunshine in October – perfect.

The Roeburn is not a river for contemplation. Once on the water it was a continuous roller coaster of grade three rapids, constant stoppers, tight bends with drops – nothing desperate, but constant vigilance and numerous support strokes required. Near pinnings on several rocks and one actual pin on a fallen tree resulting in a swim (not Tom) livened things up. All the time we knew there was a grade 4 fall somewhere on the river. We'd got the landmarks in mind and every dropping bend with a cliff had us ready to leap out to inspect. When we arrived at the fall the horizon line was obvious and a cosy eddy allowed us an easy stop. Inspection was not a realistic proposition through – the only access above/round the fall takes you so high above it that you'd see little of value anyway. Consequently we approached cautiously and shot it on sight. Approached from river right, heading left led into a straight drop with a mildly grabby stopper at the bottom.

Having got that out of the way the rest of the river followed the previous pattern – before flattening out, without slowing down, as it runs through Wray to the get out.

Having got out it was just left for the driver to wander 2 ½ miles back up the valley for the car – in paddling gear. Gazing hopefully at the few passing cars didn't produce the hoped for lift – can't blame them really, I looked odd and damp, not what you want in the back of the freshly washed car. Time then for reflection while plodding along. A great river in a lovely valley. Wonderful views to the

Yorkshire peaks while walking back. And by the time I got back to Wray the level was clearly dropping, much less water than when we got on and when we got off – so, for once, we'd got the timing spot-on.

Postscript. In February I took my bike up the Hornby Road – a track that runs from Roeburndale over the fells to Slaidburn. The

lane leading to it passes the Roeburn access. Instead of bank full and churning there was a little trickle in the bottom of a bouldery stream bed – didn't look the kind of thing you'd ever imagine paddling.

***John Kington***

# ***River Duddon***

***Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2005***

**Paddlers** – memory is hazy now, but I remember Dave Ellison, Martin Russell, Tony Morgan, Iain Robinson, Helen James, Nick Hepburn, Sam King, Tom & John Kington.

With it being the start of November we were expecting to be on Halton. However, it had rained a lot and Dave had decided that it was too high for his planned intro to moving water and made preliminary plans for a trip to the Duddon. Given its West Cumbria location and need for lots of rain a trip to this river is only really on if it's rained heavily. We already knew Halton was up, but were slightly surprised to see flooded fields and bank-full ditches near Broughton in Furness.

An inspection revealed the Duddon to be well up so we changed and shuttled up the valley – negotiating a couple of floods on the way, fortunately not suffering the same fate as the French tourists with the flooded Espace.

As we were feeling neither reckless nor suicidal we opted out of the Wallowbarrow Gorge section and put on at Seathwaite. I don't recall very much of the first section as I was getting used to a new paddle – first time out with it so there were some very funny strokes going on. What struck me most about

the river was how continuous it is – almost constant grade III rapids.

Two features stand out. A small gorge entered by a descending right hand bend calls for some hard work to keep off the rocks while negotiating the drops and stoppers. If memory serves me right Martin went AWOL from his craft here. The other significant feature is a fall under a bridge. The main flow approaches the right hand arch which is blocked by a huge rock which forms a pressure wave. The flow pushes to the left against a rock wall where it drops down under the left arch, curling to the right around a rock wall before spitting the debris into a pool below. All descended safely though with varying relative proportions of stylish technique and hard graft.

An excellent trip in a beautiful valley. I think we even had sunshine some of the time. Some of us i.e. the shuttle drivers had an extra opportunity to admire the scenery as we walked back up the valley to retrieve the cars – Mark James gave us a lift some of the way until arriving at a flood – his estimate of “its only about a mile from here” was a bit optimistic. Worth it though.

***John Kington***

# *Chairman's Chat*

Don't say you weren't warned! We've lost BAE Systems' sponsorship of this enviable organ and changes are inevitable for those members who receive this magazine through the post. See Martin's article for important information. Of course, if you already get this magazine by e-mail nothing will change.

"Troubles always come in threes" they say. Our second trouble was losing the car parking facilities at Alston for the June River Courses.

We are hoping to use facilities at a reservoir near Blackburn but continue to hit snags even at this late stage. So the location for the Summer Courses has yet to be finalised.

As far as I know our third trouble hasn't yet surfaced, but brace yourselves, I've no doubt it soon will.

***Terry Maddock***

## *Ullswater Camp*

***18th - 20th August***

The camp takes place at Waterside House camp site, on the shores of Ullswater, about a mile and a half south of Pooley Bridge, on the Eastern shore of the lake. The club will congregate in the 2nd field (the big one over the hill.)

Some will arrive on Friday night and probably walk along the lakeside path to Pooley Bridge for refreshments as it becomes dusk. The late arrivals appear on Saturday morning, when your choice of fun is only limited by what you bring with you, or can

borrow - cycle, walk, sail, canoe, BBQ, wind surf or what ever.

On Sunday there is a canoe trip down the nearby River Eden, an easy grade river down a picturesque valley, one of the "must do" local rivers. Come along and join us.

***Clive Robinson***

## *River Rawthey*

***Sunday 2nd April 2006***

**Paddlers:** Tony Morgan, Tony Marsh, Nicky Marsh, Tom & John Kington

After heavy rain in the week I'd had high hopes for Saturday's trip on the Keswick Greta. While we had a good medium level it was not the high water experience we'd expected. Saturday night didn't appear to be delivering much more rain so I agreed with Tom that we'd head up to Teesside for

Sunday as he'd not paddled for ages. As we headed up the M6 the clouds ahead got bigger and blacker and the rain kicked in. We passed Tony & Nicky near Lancaster University. Knowing that they were meeting Tony Morgan at Burton Services at 9.30, alternative plans started to form. We caught up with Tony Morgan just before Burton and agreed to have a look at the Clough/Rawthey levels and then decide whether to do the river or

press onto Teesside. One look at the Rawthey was enough – a nice medium level – so a quick change at the Sedbergh lay-by, swap boats and dry kit around and up to the put in. Its several years now since I've paddled the Rawthey – available time and rain not managing to coincide. I loved it then and have bored Tom rigid since with tales of how wonderful it is – would it live up to the billing?

The put in is just below the road high up on the fell side. The river is narrow here and you're straight into a continuous sequence of small drops, twisting and turning. Within a few minutes we arrived at Daffodil Drop, an innocuous looking 3-4 foot drop over a ledge that is supposedly the site of a non-paddling drowning. I'd mentioned this drop to Tom on the drive up, but didn't have time to tell him we'd arrived at it. Tony Morgan went over first and appeared safely in the eddy. Tom followed and didn't reappear – just the occasional flash of red paddle blades appearing above the lip. Eventually he was to be seen swimming across the pool having baled out. While Tom was out his boat and paddle continued to bounce around in the stopper and had to be dragged out with a rope. So, yes, you read it here – Tom swam. In his defence I can point to a list of other illustrious names who've had out of boat experiences at this point – Nick Hepburn, Jane Bentham, Martin Russell, Tony Moxham among them - the common connection being a careful approach. Tony & Nicky boofed it, I just went hell for leather centre to right which seemed to work.

As we continued winding our way down over various small falls and ledges Tony Morgan took a dip, getting a bit too casual on a small drop. A quick self rescue sorted him out. At about the same time the ratchets on my backrest gave up the ghost – which didn't help my boat control very much.

The next feature of significance is Loup Falls, a grade IV three-step fall in a gorge, heralded by a scenic sweeping section with views of the back of the Howgills & Cautley Spout

waterfall, followed by a sharp right hand bend. On my first Rawthey trip a fallen tree here meant we had to portage. The next time I made a dogs breakfast of it and ended up climbing/falling over the rocks along one side of the fall. The level was a bit higher this time so I wasn't too optimistic. After an inspection Tony Morgan ran it first in his open boat, lost his line, got pinned on a rock and ended up descending a rocky side chute backwards, capsized and swam – cue long pursuit to retrieve paddle. Tom followed and made a textbook descent. Nicky followed and did an even better job. Tony Marsh took a slightly different line of the second ledge, capsized, lost his paddle, rolled up anyway and dropped off the side ledge, landing the right way up. He then spoilt the whole thing by admitting that he only rolled because he'd pulled his deck off and the main pivot point was his head on the bedrock. I was last, made the first eddy OK, dropped over the next ledge, got pushed too far left, went for a hastily devised plan B – same side chute as Tony Morgan - and landed the right way up.

More small rapids through the gorges led to a final test – a nasty twisty slot with a huge boil in the middle. Having joined many other swimmers there in the past and not relishing having my head bashed against the undercuts that precede the swim I portaged. So did the others apart from Tom who nailed the line perfectly.

From there to the end the pace slowed down. More scenic gorges, several rather fine surf waves and a final couple of hundred metres flat plod to get out.

So, was it good? I thought so – almost continuous rapids, several big features, always something to keep you awake. From the open fell side at the start, sweeping views of the Howgills, followed by the confines of the gorges lined with dripping green things, it's a hugely scenic trip. Tom seemed to like it too.

***John Kington***

# Competition Report

## Early Slalom Season & Three Promotions!

It's only mid April and already the seam tape and resin are needed! On a better note both Jacquelyn and Jonathan Shaw are now promoted to Division one! Joanne Hacking was promoted to division two at Bala.

### Tees: Prem/Div 1

Good turn out of Ribble slalom paddlers at Tees, with Tim paddling in Prem, Helen, Nicky, Richard and Mick paddling in Division One and Jacquelyn and Jonathan judging.

### Tees Best Times Saturday

Richard	110.35
Mick	112.39
Tim	115.05
Jonathan	145.06
Jacquelyn	146.60
Helen	158.95
Nicky	202.64



*Nicky above the Happy Eater*



*Helen above the Happy Eater*

### Sowerby Bridge: Div 2/3

We hoped for rain to fill Sowerby and got it! The best way to achieve promotion points was to have a full and fast river to cause others to wobble. The plan worked and Jacquelyn came first on the Saturday and was promoted.



*Jonathan very near the Happy Eater*



*Jacquelyn on her winning run*

Jonathan came 2nd Saturday and 1st Sunday leaving him needing a top three place at Tully to gain promotion.

Jo Hacking joined in the racing just on the Saturday, then coming a very well earned 2nd and unlucky not to win. Look forward to seeing her results at Bala Mill.

**Tryweryn**



**Richard Draper**

Photos thanks to [www.canoeslalom.co.uk](http://www.canoeslalom.co.uk)  
Full team at the Tryweryn - rare photo of Mick thanks to the canoe slalom website!!



**Mick at the bottom of Everest**

It was a Div 1 / Prem and selection weekend and again an excellent turn out. Saturday everyone paddled, either in division one or the prems as a judge. Times below:

**Tryweryn Best Times Saturday**

Richard	109.65
Mick	108.82
Tim	109.19
Alex	104.21
Jacquelyn	136.94
Jonathan	134.01
Nicky	189.82

Little separated Mick and Richard on the Saturday. Jacquelyn got an excellent 10th out of 24 in her first div one race.

Sunday Alex posted his first time in a prem race and came 30th out of 49, and Tim close behind in 36th place.

For non slalom paddlers to be paddling at prem level is a fantastic achievement and both Alex and Tim can be proud of their early results this year.

**Grandtully**

Two weekends racing at Grandtully with lots of hard training mid week between races. First weekend was a Pan Celtic race on the Saturday and division one/two Sunday. None of our younger paddlers has made the England squad yet, but Richard was reserve. You never know what will happen over the next few months with some good performances being clocked up by our paddlers.

Sunday the 9th was Jonathan's day, not only his birthday but also his promotion to division one - in a snow blizzard! It was mighty cold the first weekend. It took an excellent all you can eat Indian in Aberfeldy to warm the toes.

**Grandtully Best Times Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Richard	103.51
Helen	151.70
Jacquelyn	138.33
Jonathan	132.48

15th/16th was a double prem and selection race. Both Richard and Jacquelyn made the cut in the selection race into the semi finals which was a great achievement. Jonathan was

unlucky to be caught up by a paddler who had missed gates and was whistled off and then restarted, giving him a slow time. Alex and Tim put in maximum effort but would like to have achieved better.

## Matlock

After the fun of Grandtully, the water at Matlock looked positively tame. However, Jonathan had decided that once he got his K1 up to division one it was time to start the climb up division 2 in his C1. Jacquelyn was keen to train, so put in to race in the Open event, plus practice her judging skills, now she is a qualified gate judge (less sitting on cold river banks for hour on end for Mark and I).

Not sure how many layers she has on in the photo, but my feet were frozen on my walking boots, and I was moving. Jacquelyn won the ladies open event on the Saturday and Jonathan posted his first division 2 points in his C1.



***Cold job this judging!!!!!!***

## Bala

What a Ribble weekend! Four trophies from five paddlers on the Sunday!

'Coach Ken' from Ormskirk scouts had us all well roped in and paddling, judging, data entering, timing... you name it we learned the job at Bala.

Saturday saw Joanne Hacking come 2nd in Div 3 ladies on Saturday, Jonathan 3rd in Div 2 C1, Jacquelyn 1st in Div 3 C1. Not a bad day at all and Sunday got even better. It must have been the BBQ on the Saturday night that gave the kids extra energy for Sunday. Joanne came 1st in Div 3 ladies and secured another promotion for the club - good luck in division 2 Jojo!! Steph came 1st in Div 4 ladies, but there weren't enough paddlers to secure a promotion for her just yet. Jonathan got his inaugural 1st in a Div2 C1 race (one more win needed for promotion in Division 1 in his C1), Jacquelyn was 1st lady judge.

## Selection

It is probably many a year since we have had young paddlers going for England and GB selection. It is an exciting time for Ribble but very hard work and a nervous time for the paddlers. Although none quite made a team this time, they put in some good performances and their turn may well come in the future. Richard came 8th in the Junior 16 GB selection, Jacquelyn came 9th in the Junior 16's GB selection and Jonathan, who was really too young yet now, knows he is the 3rd J13 (K1), with a couple of Welsh paddlers ahead of him.

Cracking start to the season and we hope it continues. There is a break in division one races until mid June, and prem have long rest while the top paddlers go abroad.

We are always keen to encourage new slalom paddlers; we have a garage full of slalom boats! Well 7 of them, a couple we will happily lend to anyone wanting to give slalom a go, although good old plastic will do for division 4. Sowerby Bridge and Manchester have races coming up in June and July, check out the calendar.

***Susan Shaw***

# ***West Tanfield Camp***

***7th – 9th July***

This is a weekend camp (one or two nights as the fancy takes). The site is Slenningford Water Mill, a well maintained private camp site located adjacent to its own stretch of the River Ure. The River at this point has a grade 3 section suitable for intermediate paddlers and a grade 2 section suitable for improving beginners. There are several family pubs within walking distance. Lightwater Valley amusement park boasting the world's longest roller coaster ride is close by for those not wanting to paddle, and Ripon with its cathedral is about 5 miles away.

The River trip is grade 2 with the exception of Hack Falls which can be portaged. At normal levels the trip takes about 3 hours, but at low levels has taken 5. There is a long walk in (thankfully downhill all the way), but once on the river you pass through pleasant wooded areas and farm land. We normally take lunch and stop on an island just below a weir to eat. The river is restricted access and so we will be making the trip on the Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

This is an ideal first river trip following the summer course.

***Brian Woodhouse***

# ***Rhosneigr Camp***

***28th – 30th July***

Have you ever tried surfing in your canoe? Sitting down, not standing up – though you'd get extra marks for style if you did stand up successfully. If you have then you may know about our annual Anglesey Surf Weekend. If not, read on.

One of the few things that you can do in a kayak that beats surfing a glassy green wave on a fast river is surfing down the face of a glassy green wave on the sea – especially if the sun's shining. Every year we have a weekend camp at Rhosneigr on Anglesey. The idea is to pack in as much surfing as possible and have a generally sociable weekend. We don't always get brilliant surf, but there are other attractions – seal spotting around some of the offshore islands, beach games, kite flying, beer and barbecues - whatever.

If you've not surfed before this is a good opportunity to learn. As long as you have reasonable control of your boat and are prepared to swim a bit you should have fun – the D'ribbler award was won one year on the basis of an afternoon at Rhosneigr – stand up Michael Moul. A playboat with a planing hull is ideal, but the club's Rotobats work very well too.

Rhosneigr is on the North West corner of Anglesey. If you've been before you'll know where the campsite is, if not get in touch with me and I'll direct you. The site is fairly basic – no water park or cabaret, but it has hot showers and is not normally crowded. We usually travel to Anglesey on Friday night, but you can always come up on Saturday.

***John Kington***

# ***New Boats!***

Not satisfied with the purchase of several new pool boats only a short while ago, the committee has been making free and easy with the club's money and so we're all going on a holiday to the Bahamas...

We've just bought 6 new river boats to add to our fleet. The boats are:

- 2x Perception Sonic
- 2x Perception Supersonic
- 2x Perception Method Junior

All are fully equipped for river use with air bags and spraydecks. The boats are different sizes so that hopefully we should have something suitable for every paddler.

It is **vital** that these boats are only borrowed once they have been booked out through

## ***Lock Up You Boaters***

With all the recent reports of canoe/kayak thefts you may think it'll never happen to you. Here's a salutary tale of my experience on Sunday 23 April.

At about 4.30pm I came down my drive from the back of my place to see a white van parked on the verge outside and heard a sliding noise of something being loaded or unloaded. Being a nosey type I popped round my front hedge to see what was going on. A bloke was just shutting his back doors on two of my kayaks - the Kendo and my slalom boat.

Not believing his tale of being asked to pick them up by the chap I'd sold them to !!!!! I insisted he got them out and gave me my boats back - which he did. As he got back in his van he said "Is that OK then, you've got

Steve Swarbrick. This is because we have to make sure that the boat you borrow is fitted with the correct footrest and is correctly adjusted for your use.

For the same reason, if you borrow one of these boats please do not lend it to another member of the club without consulting Steve - if they use the wrong boat or adjust it incorrectly you may be placing them at risk.

Steve prefers to be contacted on a Monday night, and will arrange for a boat to be available for collection on the Wednesday night ready for a Sunday trip.

***Steve Swarbrick***

my number?" "Oh yes" I said and went in and rang the police with it.

So, if you see a big white van (bigger than a transit) reg M538LAG do give the driver my regards and check your boats. Sunday was a sunny afternoon and about 4 people were popping on and off my site as the thief got the two boats off racks on the side of my cabin and carried them round, out thru' the gate and into his van.

And he never batted an eyelid or went the slightest bit pink when caught red handed. 10 seconds later down my drive and I'd be two boats worse off. I'm off to get some more locking devices to secure them properly.

***Terry Maddock***

# *Rothay Swimming Gala*

On Wednesday 29 March, a small group of Ribble members having a drink at the Hand & Dagger made a loose plan for a paddle on Sunday 2nd April. It had been raining a lot and the Lune at Halton had been far too high for most of us, so someone said what about the Rothay, it is normally very low and even with all the recent rain it will probably still be paddleable. Good idea we all agreed. Over the next few days others heard about the plan and numbers grew until there were 15 paddlers.

The meeting point for the trip was the Car Park at Waterhead, from where the car shuttle would be organised. I can't remember a more wet and depressing journey from Preston to the Lakes, it was absolutely pouring down the whole way, my mood was very sombre and there was very little conversation in the car, other than "look at that bl\*\*\*y rain." When we arrived at the car park, the famous Lake District Fells were completely hidden by black clouds. At this point if someone had said "It's too big" or "It's too low let's not paddle today" I would have danced a merry jig and headed back home. (I would have feigned intense disappointment first of course). But paddlers are made of stern stuff (when pressed) and so we changed into paddling gear and set off to do the usual car shuttle. The launch point was on the side of Grasmere by the side of the busy A591. This is definitely not an ideal launching point since you have to partially block the road and annoy the traffic whilst unloading boats, and then climb over a low wall and negotiate a steep drop on the other side down to the lake shore.

This all went off without incident (to my utter amazement) and the cars drove off back to Waterhead to park up. The non-drivers therefore waited around for the drivers to re-join us for the trip. Under normal circumstances I imagine that it is very pleasant sat around on the shores of Grasmere taking in the scenery and chatting with fellow

paddlers, and waiting for returning drivers is no problem. However this was one of the wettest days I have ever spent in the Lake District (and there have been plenty in my lifetime) so the waiting seemed endless.

Eventually the Drivers returned and we set off down the lake in the direction of the Rothay with the rain still pouring down. The group consisted of Mark & Norman Green, Mark & Grant Dillon, Iain & Clive Robinson, Chris & Sue Sharman with a friend called Andy Waddington from Swaledale Outdoor Club, The Hacking Family 4, Sam Capper and someone called Gareth whose surname I have been unable to discover. (I thought he might be a gatecrasher but decided that no one is that desperate).

Allan Hacking took charge and I adopted the role of tail end charlie when we started to paddle down the river. This gave me a good excuse for taking my time and I also like to see what problems others are having so that I can take a different route if necessary. It is also nice to know that another paddler is not going to suddenly appear along side just as one is about to perform a break out or other manoeuvre designed to keep one out of trouble or floating the right way up.

On reaching the small weir at the end of Grasmere, it was obvious that the water level was going to be high enough to cover most of the rocky stretches and thus avoid a scrape down, whilst being low enough to be done by the less experienced paddlers in the group. Despite my low spirits and the pouring rain things were looking reasonably good for an enjoyable river trip.

Everyone coped well with the first section of river down to Rydal Water and the rain eased up a little as we made our way to the landing point for a quick lunch stop. As we stood eating lunch we watched a group of mountain bikers who were riding along the lakeshore only to find that the path disappeared beneath

18 inches of water. They pressed on regardless and probably ended up just as wet as we were by now.

After the lunch stop we set off along Rydal Water to the next section of the Rothay. This section was getting higher as we paddled further down due to the water coming in off the small side streams. The colour of the water was changing to a "Mucky Brown," it was flowing fairly fast and there were very few breakouts. Throw in several overhanging tree branches, and this grade 2 river became a little bit more challenging. Everyone appeared to be coping all right despite the concerned looks on a few faces. However when we came to the grade 3 rapid just above Pelter Bridge we had our first stern test and managed to get down with just one capsize. I narrowly managed to avoid the same fate and from here on in my mind was far more focused. It was probably at this point I realised that I had spent so much time paddling at Halton that I was more used to paddling upstream than downstream. (Perhaps I should have started at the bottom and paddled up)

So after sorting ourselves out after the capsize, we regrouped and set off with the rain coming down and the river coming up. On the way down S. Wimmer's attempt at "Fancy Dan Reverse Ferry Gliding" won him further D'Ribbler points to add to his tally. But undeterred he composed himself and off we went.

This was only the second time I have paddled the Rothay and my main recollection of the previous trip was negotiating the stepping-stones across the river. No problem today they were well under water. In fact they formed a small weir-like standing wave on which some of the group had a little play (good practice for the pantomime to come), whilst we regrouped ready for the next section of river.

As we set off downstream with me still at the back, I was thinking that the only slight obstacle left was the Weir adjacent to the Rothay Manor Hotel (the scene of a famous

murder some years ago) but with the current water level this would be washed out and would be fairly easy to negotiate. So with a feeling of "job almost done" I trundled along at the back of the group thinking of imminent dry clothes and hot drinks. As I paddled round a bend, my reverie was interrupted by the sight of Iain Robinson pulling on his throw line, the other end of which was high up in a tree branch. Realising that the Conker Season had finished and Tarzan swings were a bit of a No-No given the wispy branch he was tied to, my rapier like mind deduced that he must be trying to do something else, but exactly what completely escaped me. However Sam Capper was swimming along holding on to Allan Hacking's boat, and Mark had gone off to retrieve his runaway kayak, there were shouts of 2 other swimmers and Lesley Hacking was feeling a little phased out at all the pandemonium going on around her. I looked around and realised that Sam was being sorted out OK his boat was now up on dry land (as dry as could be expected on a day like today) and I could see no signs of any further problems. As no one needed saving I decided that as I was very close to the Hotel Weir I should save myself so I shot the weir and looked for a breakout. I found a nice friendly breakout with tree roots to hang on to and got out of my boat and started to walk up the bank to see if everyone was OK. I was supposed to be the tail end Charlie but here I was at the front of the group on my own, a clear case of dereliction of duty on my part.

Whilst walking up the bank I was surprised to see Joanne Hacking running towards me with a throw line dragging behind her and a look of panic on her face. Her mum Lesley was drifting down the river and over the weir being closely watched by Steph who was offering helpful advice and nudging her into the correct line to break out on river right. I ought to point out that they were all "The Right Way Up." It appeared that Lesley was simply overcome by the condition of the river and temporarily "Lost Her Bottle." This was later retrieved and she went on to finish the trip without incident. Lesley was upset because she felt she wasn't coping very well

with the prevailing conditions, so I mentioned that further upstream we had 4 swimmers and at that time she was one of the few people the right way up so she must be doing something right.

Meanwhile back on the bank Joanne raced back up to see what she could do with her throw line, apparently Sue & Chris Sharman had also taken a swim. I was now joined by Grant Dillon who got off the river murmuring about how he had missed being able to play on the weir on the way down and was going back up there to have another go. I politely pointed out to him that it is club policy to rescue people from drowning BEFORE we have a play. He immediately grasped this point and went up to offer his services. Having coaxed Lesley into my Friendly Breakout and ensured that she was safe and well (if slightly hysterical) I walked up the bank to see what was going on just above the Hotel Weir.

By now Iain Robinson had recovered his tree wrapping throw line and the Sharman Synchronised Swimming Duo had completed their event. However Allan Hacking had his line out and was trying in vain to throw it across the river. Apparently Sam had been rescued and landed on river right, whilst his kayak had been rescued and landed on river left. This was crass bad planning as the river was too fast and too deep to wade across and it was decided to try to fasten the kayak on the end of a line and pull it across to its cold and soggy owner. It is at times like this when one cries out for a video camera to record the event since it would have made an excellent

training video showing the difficulties of using a throw line. Allan was stood at the bottom of the bank with a vertical wall a few inches behind him and overhanging tree branches just above him. This meant that he had no room for a back swing and if he achieved sufficient height it would have landed in the tree branches anyway. It was decided to use plan B. This consisted of Mark paddling across, picking up the end of the line and ferry gliding back with it held in his hand ready to release if necessary. It wasn't necessary and the line was attached to Sam's kayak and pulled across.

Sam and the rest of us eventually got back on the river ready to return to the warmth of waiting motor cars. It was somewhere around this time that Sam's Dad came along the road by the Hotel looking for his son, good job he didn't come sooner or he would probably have banned him from coming out with Ribble Canoe Club ever again

Grant Dillon managed his play session on the Hotel Weir, and was joined by his dad, Iain Robinson & Allan & Joanne Hacking. Meanwhile back in the Friendly Breakout the rest of us decide to paddle back to the Waterhead car park to get dry and warm before hypothermia set in or we started to develop webbed feet.

Guess what it was still raining as we set off back home, but hey I had a great time. "Masochism Starts at Sixty."

***Norman Green***

## ***Keepers of the keys***

Are you one of the select few club members who has a key to the lockup at the Hand & Dagger? If so, please could you get in touch and let me know. Don't worry, you won't have your key taken off you, but we need to make sure we know exactly who does have keys and why they need them.

Of course, if you don't need your key any more then we can always make use of them rather than having to get more cut.

So, if you've got a key, please ring or email me and let me know.

***Martin Stockdale***

# *Opening a Branch Account*

A wet day in the Lake District for a run down the River Rothay was to be the venue for a whole new experience that saw me opening a 'Branch Account'.

The day started with the 'put in' at Grasmere being beautifully enacted with only one irate motorist pretending not to have seen 5 cars parked at the roadside adjacent to the lake. With gear carefully lowered over the wall to the lake shore and several wobbly descents from the top of the wall completed, things settled down with a steady paddle across the lake and onto the weir at the start of the River Rothay.

From the way the water was coming over the weir it was obvious that earlier observations were to be true, and that the river was indeed carrying some water. A playful run down the rapids went very well with several exciting manoeuvres required to avoid the boulders scattered haphazardly around the river. Onto Rydal the group progressed safely, for a nice but wet feeding time enhanced by a group of mountain bikers entertaining us by paddling along the lake shore –in the water, and one of them losing momentum and getting wet feet. See, its not just paddlers that are mad. Hmm, there's a thought, my son and heir is getting into the mountain biking –that explains a lot. It also might explain why he and a junior Hacking persistently capsizes their boats, is Jo into mountain biking yet?

Anyway with full tummies and rain still falling off we went again. The next part of the river was another 'technical' section of water strewn with boulders, which unfortunately lead to Clive beating me to the first swim of the day when he got wrong sided by a large boulder. Clive was okay and evacuated his boat okay, but I hate to see 'the older people'

having a swim, and so, feeling sorry for him proceeded to open my branch account with a beautiful reverse ferry straight into a tree which was hanging close to the water. Not that I want to outdo Clive, but I feel this – being a first Branch meeting for myself – keeps me well in the running for a major trophy at the end of the year and complemented the days activity quite nicely. It's funny really, but I had earlier had a nice photo opportunity in front of a sign saying 'No Non Swimmers' - it's as if someone is watching over me!...

Shortly after this the whole trip took on a different complexion when the Rothay - by now pushing hard - was joined by a muddy torrent from Skelwith beck. So high was the river now that the stepping stones were passed straight over with no scraping and things were really hotting up, and didn't they just, when we had a trio of swimmers within minutes of each other. The professionalism of the Ribble experienced paddlers always shines through in these situations, and all swimmers were re-untied with their boats safely. Thanks and well done to you all.

The rest of the trip down to Windermere went well. However, special mention must be made of Lesley Hacking's spectacular high speed down river run to the accompaniment of a selection of 'colourful' language whilst being faithfully followed by Steph. I'm jealous. How does she manage to 'talk' to everyone she paddles past whilst doing such a high speed run, I can see I've still got a lot to learn. Well done Lesley, no swims for you on a testing day.

***N.E Wayup***

# Summer Course



**Please note new venues, dates and price changes**

**Call Terry**

Ribble Canoe Club's summer courses are fast approaching! BCU qualified coaches will take you through a comprehensive training course which will take beginners to 1 star or 2 star level, and existing 2 star paddlers to 3 star. The course will include both training and assessment.

Suitable for people aged over 10 through to adults, the course will cater for beginner, improver and intermediate paddlers.

The Wednesday and Thursday evening sessions will mainly be held at Tarleton Leisure Lakes, with pool sessions on Fridays at Fulwood Leisure Centre.

We have had to increase the cost slightly to cover the fees we will pay at Tarleton. The final course fees **excluding** membership are:

1 and 2 star: £35 children, £45 Adults  
3 star: £40 children, £50 adults

Membership costs £16 for adults, £8 for under 18's and £4 for each additional member of a family with one adult member.

For three star there will be an additional fee payable directly to the BCU for the certificate and badge if you successfully pass the award.

Club equipment will be available for loan on a first come first served basis.

## ***Provisional Program***

31<sup>st</sup> May – Enrolment, Kit collection and Introductory Outdoor Session for Beginners at The Hand & Dagger  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June – Outdoor skills sessions  
9<sup>th</sup> June – Pool session – Capsize & Rescue  
14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> June – Outdoor skills sessions  
16<sup>th</sup> June – Pool session - Rolling (3\*) and Rescue  
21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> June – Outdoor skills sessions  
23<sup>rd</sup> June – Pool session - Rolling (3\*) and Rescue  
25<sup>th</sup> June - Outdoor Trip (Ribble or Lune)  
28<sup>th</sup> June – Outdoor skills session  
29<sup>th</sup> June – Assessment/Return kit

## ***Interested?***

What do you need to do next? Simple, just call to book your slot, most of the follow-on correspondence will be conducted by email so please have your email details handy. Concerned about missing some of the dates or boat collection? Don't be! Call me and we'll come up with a cunning plan.

**Please Note: ALL candidates will be required to swim two lengths of the pool before the first session.**

For more details or to book a place, please call:

***Terry Maddock***

# Ribble CC Library

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

## 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*

### The Playboater's Handbook

*Ken Whiting*

### The Complete Book of Sea Kayaking

*Derek C. Hutchinson*

### Sea Kayak Navigation

*Franco Ferrero*

### Path of the Paddle

*Bill Mason, Paul Mason*

### Canoeing

*Laurie Gullion*

### Open Canoe Technique

*Nigel Foster*

### Anglesey Sea Paddling

#### Information

*Donated by Andy Dowe*

### Rowing it Alone

*Debra Veal*

*Donated by Adam Fielder*

### The Handbook of Survival at Sea

*Chris Beeson*

*Donated by Adam Fielder*

## 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*

### Canal Companion: Cheshire Ring

*J.M. Pearson and Son Ltd.*

## 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

## 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

## DVDs:

### Tony Morgan in the Grand Canyon

### LVM Lunch Video Magazine

### Ribble Newsletters (CD)

### Doubleyouess

### Without a Paddle (13)

### Whitewater Kayaking

*Ken Whiting*

### The Cockleshell Heroes (U)

### Mags Brayfield in Nepal

### EJ's Advanced Playboating

### The Chaos Theory

### Jackson Kayak Promo

*Donated by Iain Robinson*

### It's Different Every Time

*Norman Green*

*Donated by Norman Green*

# ***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
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Rolling	Bob Smith	John Kington
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rolling	Bob Smith	Terry Maddock
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	River Course	Terry Maddock	Clive Robinson
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	River Course	Terry Maddock	Grahame Coles
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	River Course	Terry Maddock	Allan Hacking
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Open	N/A	Mark Loftus

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 by phoning the named contact.

## ***Editor's bit***

### **Scotland bonny Scotland**

Well, I've got to say I'm disappointed. All those people in Scotland at Easter, all those paddling, walking and cycling trips, all those pictures and videos taken, all those drunken nights, but articles – not a one!

Come on folks, I'm sure you all had some adventures up there worth reporting.

If I don't get anything in time for the July newsletter, I may be forced to put pen to paper myself and tell everybody about the sordid goings-on on the whitewater trips – Iain demonstrating the art of Cranial Percussion, Tom impersonating Andy Pandy, Daniel scarring my car for life (and not while he was driving it) and Jo's addiction to text messages and Hot Cross Buns...

### **Apologies**

Sorry this newsletter is late: I've been 'orrible sick. Normal service will be resumed ASAP.

### **Time to switch to email**

You've reached the end of the newsletter now. The best bits are over: nothing much left except the closing credits and the test card, so it's time to turn off the set and go and make sure you keep getting the full newsletter. A quick one-line email to me is all it needs – do it now, don't leave it or you'll forget and miss out on all the best from sunny Scotland!

### **Dates and deadlines**

The next committee meeting will be on July 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on July 18<sup>th</sup>. All submissions to me by Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest please.

***Martin Stockdale***  
[secretary@ribblecanooclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ribblecanooclub.co.uk)



# 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](http://www.activity-centre.freeserve.co.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

### May

- 24 Washburn Evening Cruise  
27/28 BCU NW Weekend  
Nene, Northampton  
27/28 Tryweryn  
Chipper to Bala  
28 ***Estuary Trip Wyre (HT12.48, 9.2m)***  
***Knott End - Skipool & Back***  
***Clive Robinson***  
31 Washburn Children's Day

### June

- 3 Tryweryn  
Chipper to Bala  
3/4 Tees Barrage  
4 **Beginners' Trip**  
**R Wenning, High Bentham**  
**Terry Maddock**  
4 Tryweryn  
Raft egress to Bala  
7/8 **1,2 & 3 Star Courses**  
**Terry Maddock**  
10/11 Washburn Weekend Cruise  
11 ***R Greta White Water***  
***Tony Morgan***  
14/15 **1,2 & 3 Star Courses**  
**Terry Maddock**  
17/18 BCU Coaching Festival  
17/18 Tees Barrage

- 18 ***Flat Water Trip***  
***River Ouse***  
***Tom Byrne***  
18 Tryweryn  
Chipper to Bala  
21/22 **1,2 & 3 Star Courses**  
**Terry Maddock**  
21 Washburn Evening Cruise  
25 **Course Trip**  
**R Ribble Alston to Walton-le-Dale**  
**Brian Woodhouse**  
25 Washburn Sunday Cruise  
28/29 **1,2 & 3 Star Courses**  
**Terry Maddock**

### July

- 1/2 Tryweryn  
Chipper to Bala  
1/2 Tees Barrage  
2 **Beginners' Trip**  
**Derwent Water**  
**Terry Maddock**  
7-9 **West Tanfield Family Camp**  
**Brian Woodhouse**  
15/16 Tryweryn  
Chipper to Bala  
16 ***Flat Water Trip***  
***Bassenthwaite***  
***Tom Byrne***  
26 Washburn Sunday Cruise  
28-30 **Rhosneigr Family Camp**  
**John Kington**

### August

- 5/6 Tryweryn  
Chipper to Bala  
6 **Beginners' Trip**  
**Coniston Water**  
**Terry Maddock**  
6 Washburn  
13 ***Estuary Trip Wyre (HT15.00, 9.5m)***  
***Knott End - Skipool & Back***  
***TBA***  
19-20 ***Experienced Sea Kayaking***  
***Welsh Coast***  
***Andy Dowe***  
18-20 **Ullswater Family Camp**  
**Clive Robinson**

- 20 ***Flat Water Trip***  
***Shropshire Union Canal***  
***Tom Byrne***

## Diary Dates

### 6-10 Oct

***Scottish White Water Week***  
***Roy Bridge, nr Spean Bridge***  
***Ian McCreerie***

- 9 Dec ***Christmas Dinner/Disco***  
***New Drop Inn, Ribchester***  
***Debbie Dowe***

## Slalom

Please see [www.canoeslalom.co.uk](http://www.canoeslalom.co.uk) for event details and to confirm dates, or contact Susan Shaw

### June

- 3/4 Hatfield Park 4/Open  
Green Star CC (Yorks)  
10/11 Sowerby Bridge 3/4 Double  
Halifax CC

### July

- 16 Marple 3/4  
Manchester CC  
23 Stone 3/4  
Stone CC

### September

- 2/3 Marple 3/4 Double  
Manchester CC  
16/17 Bala Mill 2/3/4 Double  
Bala CC  
16/17 Oughtibridge 3/4 Double  
Sheffield CC  
23/24 West Tanfield 3/4 Double  
West Yorks CC  
30 Princes Quay 4/Open  
Kingston (Hull) CC

### October

- 7/8 Stone 3/4 Double  
Stone CC

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.