



CAMBRIDGE CANOE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

To get the club's diary of events and ad-hoc messages about club activities by e-mail please send a blank message to:

camcanoe-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

In case you already didn't know, canoeing is an assumed risk, water contact sport.

September 2009

Treasurer's Chat

Yes, that's correct, you're reading a chat provided by your treasurer not your chairman. That's because I felt the need to publish a newsletter with so many things happening in the club. Your first chairman is on holiday and your other chairman has just finished his extended stay in Australia.

We have been awarded clubmark by the BCU which is great. The flippers are about to be formally opened. The clubhouse extension might just actually go ahead this winter.

Some of us also went to Heidelberg for the Dragonboat Race and I included two articles from 2008 written just after the last regular newsletter was published. Enjoy reading!

Upcoming events:

5th Sep – Flipper Opening (come paddle or watch!)

6th Sep – Cromer Trip

9th Sep – Wednesday Series (6pm paddle)

13th Sep – Hemel Hemstead Marathon

16th Sep – Wednesday Series (6pm paddle)

20th Sep – Huntingdon Marathon (come and help!)

20th Sep - Trent Day Trip

Nicole Zahn

BCU Clubmark Awarded

Our Club has been awarded Clubmark by the BCU!

How have we done this? We provide a participation programme (coaching, socials, trips, river cleans), Duty of Care & Child Protection (a safe environment), Sports equity and ethics (we are fair to all ethical), Club

management (we manage our affairs well).

Who has done this? The Committee, in particular Terry Elsey, has been working towards this for approx 2 years. BUT, it would not have been possible without all the work from the Club's volunteers and members who have given up the time to promote the Club in so many ways.

What does it mean? It means that we are recognised throughout the UK as a well run Club. This will make it easier to achieve grants to develop the Club further. In particular the Clubhouse Extension grants should now be that much easier.

Where from here? We can work towards TopClub or even TopClub Gold; the BCU say we are nearly there now on some aspects.

Well done everyone!



Flippers Opening Ceremony

Please attend the opening of the flipper project on Bishop's Mill sluice in Cambridge on **5 September** at 10.30 am!

It is hoped that as many members as possible of the Club will attend the event and we would like lots of paddlers on the water below the sluice to advertise this event and the new facility. Please come along and support the Club and help show our appreciation for the funding and support which has made it possible.

There will be a BBQ at the Club afterwards, organised by Dr(?) Dave Badger, for all Club members attending the opening.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Bill Block

Dragonboat Race in Heidelberg

On 25th July WSC Heidelberg organised their 4th Dragonboat Race in Heidelberg. Why are you reading this in the CCC newsletter? Two reasons; WSC Heidelberg is our partner canoe club in Germany and I took part in the race.

Once, during the 1980/90s a lively exchange took place between both clubs with members going on club trips together in the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Czech Republic. In order to revive the exchange this was the second year CCC members were invited to take part in the Dragonboat race. 49 teams of 20 people took part, and in their midst (only) two members of Cambridge Canoe Club. That's 1000 competitors alone, add guests and you get a good party on the Neckar!

4. Heidelberger Drachenbootcup



Eine Veranstaltung des Wassersportclub 1931 Heidelberg-Neuenheim e.V

Samstag, 25.07.2009

Many teams dressed up for the event, not least because there was a prize to be had for this category. Teams were filled mainly with employees of local companies, but also some canoe and other sports clubs. There were also 4 professional teams where we could all see what the technique should look like. Every team competed in three races over the whole day. This left plenty of time to drink beer, eat Bratwurst, chat, watch other teams race, get a free back massage or shop at the stalls on the Neckar meadows between races.

Jamie and I joined a team from the Alpine Club. With no training we achieved a respectable 8th place out of 24 teams in this category. This performance was rewarded with a little trophy and a certificate. WSC Heidelberg really appreciated the CCC participation, shown by awarding us another trophy for "furthest travel to the event". It was a great day out, the weather gods were kind with a dry day and sunshine breaking through numerous times.

WSC Heidelberg made us feel very welcome by hosting us all weekend, showing us their beautiful town and

taking us to some very pretty cafes and restaurants. We even found time for an outing in a K4!

The race takes place every year on the last weekend in July. No doubt, an invitation will be sent again in 2010 for CCC to take part.

Wouldn't it be great if one day CCC filled its own dragon boat in Heidelberg?

Nicole Zahn

Clubhouse Extension

You may hear talk about a clubhouse extension once in a while and then wonder when it will happen. Well, there are volunteers in the club who have been working on this extension project for years, mainly Mike Price who spent many hours in meetings, organising the project and driving it forward. Here is an update:

The Structural Engineering has been completed. A bat & bird survey took place and revealed we have a bat. The building plans have been approved by the club; but there are some minor changes outstanding. Our architects have prepared a tendering pack for contractors to provide quotes. We will assess local contractors, options & terms we would like applied to the tendering process.

The heating arrangements for the Extension have not been finalised.

We are also discussing the re-location of the swimming attendant's office. This would allow the current ladies changing room to be extended & become a large equipment room when the main extension is available.

Nicole Zahn

CCA Trip 1 June 2008

We were a soggy group of would-be paddlers huddled together in the rain on The Green, Barrington waiting for the car drivers to be brought back to the start of the tour. We could not believe that the day before had been such a magnificent summer's day and now it was overcast and damp, though fortunately not windy. We had carried the boats to the put-in point on the R. Rhee which involved walking through long grass, so we were wet from the bottom up, as well as from the rain. At last we were off, 13 boats, 16 paddlers and picking up three more boats and paddlers along the way. The river was full, not running fast, but at least the dry spell had passed and there was water in the river.

The paddle started easily, all successfully shooting the rapids under the Foxton to Barrington Road Bridge and then twisted and turned with the little river, which

necessitated single file, at a steady pace before suddenly slowing down. Swans, the word was passed down the line, swan and cygnets the word came down the line, swimming downstream; ahh that was why we were so slow, unable to get past and not wishing to stress them. They eventually retreated to the bank and we got by easily.

Now the hold-ups were fallen willows, usually whole branches in the water acting as catchers for floating debris. Thank goodness we had a saw. So we came to Harston Mill and the concrete weir above the mill. There was enough water for the small boats to shoot it easily but not for the larger open boats, and this is a steep bank to climb out onto and the stinging nettle vigour reflected the last ten days of good rainfall. The grounds here to river left have been tidied up recently, with mown paths and garden seats about. There was a surprise in store for us once back on the water, immediately downstream of Harston Mill and above the road bridge. I remember there used to be an area of what appeared to be a broken weir or barrage here. Now it was transformed, the concrete blocks had been realigned and supplemented and then across the whole width of the river above this foundation was a large (c.60 cms diameter) tree trunk held in position by metal rods. A truly formidable structure the top of which was possibly 75 cms feet above the current water level. So we were all out to portage around this obstruction.

Bill was leaning over the Harston to Haslingfield Bridge, camera in hand, as the disembodied voices gradually metamorphosed into paddlers. He told us that David's car was near the bridge, so obviously he had given up on us and had set off with his two children. It is only a short distance from here to Burnt Mill, and even less as the crow flies, but many of the willows had been damaged in the recent high winds and the river obstruction was considerable. Having been advised that one place was impassable I eventually got out, up a steep nettle-colonised bank into an area of nettles and goosegrass. I wished to cut off a river bend and launch further downstream but found forcing my way through a chest-high mesh of nettles and goosegrass really hard work. Fortunately I had good help relaunching but it was no consolation to be told that I probably could have squeezed through and that all the little kayaks had been pulled over the tree trunk with paddlers in situ.

We egressed just after the footbridge before the weir at Burnt Mill where we had lunch. We did not stop long, though long enough for those who wished to shoot the weir and for others to play in the white water downstream of it. Amazingly we were joined there by other canoeists, two in an old design C2, a true 'banana boat', with the cockpits widely spaced.

I had anticipated that now the river was slightly wider there would be no more obstructions. But again we had to use the saw and the way was slow and tortuous between the fallen willow branches. Gradually the river widened and straightened and it was easier to converse with fellow paddlers. We were joined from the right by the joint R. Cam (from Saffron Walden) and R. Granta (from Linton)

and together we all went under the M11 to Byron's Pool. No water going over the main weir here, but the banks were amazingly wet and slippery and a fixed line was used to great effect to help paddlers up the wet banks. There are signs of Himalayan Balsam here, now regarded as an unwanted alien.

Now we were on the home stretch with the thought of the Club House, a drink and a shower. Nothing to bar our way. The overcast sky was to our advantage, there was only the odd punt on the river and it was beautiful with magnificent reflections in the still waters. A good ending to a memorable paddle.

May Block

Washburn Trip 7/8 June 2008

Saturday 7th June started as an overcast and humid day in the car park above Fewston Reservoir, ideal for the midges and keen kayakers alike. Located between Harrogate and Skipton in West Yorkshire, the dam released Washburn provides a good couple of miles of fairly continuous and fast flowing Grade 3 (according to the sign) with some nice bouncy bits and some frustratingly small play-boat sized eddies. Arriving at 9am, I was there in time to see the taps being turned on by the chap from Yorkshire Water. Stood on the bridge I was surprised that, unlike the Tryweryn whose water levels seem to creep up, the Washburn comes alive with a cacophony of tumbling whitewater and rolling boulders. Five of us were on the water with the minimum of fuss, as this seemed about the only place the pesky midges couldn't find us. We warmed up on the river as Paul Pickles warmed up by single handedly inflating the kayak he had hired for the day. Some hardy souls practiced their roll before the river started in earnest, but wise to the temperature of water coming from the depths of a reservoir, I decided to save my limited number of good rolls for when I needed them.

The first trip down the river was quite eerie – it was still early and the number of kayakers normally expected on a Washburn weekend had yet to materialise. At least it meant we didn't have to compete for the limited eddies. My nemesis from '07 – the 'big' drop about half way down the river came upon us quickly, though despite some nerves I managed to get down it without being upside down this time. Angelika absolutely styled it with the minimum of fuss, making my nerves feel a little foolish. The two piles at the bottom remained as ferocious as ever and some nimble trimming and support strokes were needed to ride them out. Dr Mitchell and Mr Price showed us what can be achieved on the bottom wave with some nice moves that they must have practiced somewhere other than the Cam. However as the midges finally figured out our whereabouts we set about trudging back to the top for a little light lunch and another ride

down the river. Tim and Emma then proceeded to take kayaking keenness to a new level by packing up his kit, pulling some posh clothes from the pandoras box that is the boot of their car, and explaining that they were just popping over to Bolton for a wedding and that they would be back later?! Legend!!!

We had two more runs on the river in the afternoon, and were passed a number of times by Mr Pickles in his blow up kayak – he was going for a club record of 10 full river runs in one day in an inflatable boat. If anyone challenges that record they might find it quite a big task!

Weary and satisfied we made our way to the Hopper Lane Inn in Blubberhouses for refreshments and food, where we seemed to be joined by most of West Yorkshire Canoe club, Blubberhouses Cricket Club and most of the inhabitants of the nearby villages.

Sunday started in the traditional way at the Washburn – to the resonance of an early rising peacock that likes the sound of its own voice. The glorious sun brought more kayakers to the river but that just added to the fun of finding somewhere safe to stop. Breaking out of a particularly tricky eddy, Alex caught an edge and quickly ended found himself the wrong way up. He managed to roll about 3/4s of the way before diving back into the water and subsequently swimming. Somewhat puzzled he fished himself out and found he was holding on to just one half of his paddle – the rest being in the river somewhere. Seems quite an expensive way to practice hand-rolling, but if anyone wants to buy a canoe paddle you should drop him a line.

The 160 mile drive home seemed a doddle in the glorious sunshine, and the kit was washed, dried and stowed before the sun had set. Monday morning rolled round far too quickly and my collection of midge bites was really quite spectacular – it took some time to convince my work colleagues I wasn't contagious!!!

Many thanks to Dr Mitchell (and West Yorkshire CC) for organising another superb trip, and for everyone that turned up for making it so enjoyable. Here's to next year.

Andrew Twigg

Your Committee

To contact any of the committee members, find them on the river, leave them a message on the bulletin board at the clubhouse, or send an e-mail to one of the addresses below. Just add “cambridgecanoecub.org.uk” after the @.

Honorary President	Bill Block	president@...
Chairman	Mike Norman /Jamie Hulme	chairman@...
Secretary	Robert Bramley	secretary@...
Treasurer	Nicole Zahn	treasurer@...
Membership	Arthur Davis	membership@...
Quartermaster	Tim Mitchell	quartermaster@...
Social Secretary	Dave Barton	social@...
Competition	Richard Stagg	competition@...
Coaching	Terry Elsey	coaching@...
Touring	Andrew Twigg	touring@...
Members without portfolio		
	Mike Price	mike@...
Newsletter Editor	vacant	
Webmaster	Gabriel Kempski	newsletter@...

Updates by e-mail

The CamCanoe e-mail list is used by Cambridge Canoe Club to distribute updates to the club's diary of events and ad-hoc messages relating to club events. This includes paddling opportunities that come up at short notice and last minute changes to normal club arrangements.

If you have urgent information for club members, e-mail any committee member who can post the information for you. Make sure to include your email address in the message if you want replies. Non-urgent information can also be sent to the newsletter editor for publication in the newsletter.

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Newsletter

The newsletter relies on contributions from members for its content and on a volunteer willing to put it together.

If you are interested in seeing this newsletter published regularly and have some spare time to help out, please get in touch with the committee.