

BVCC Newsletter January 2011

Welcome...

... to the January 2011 edition of the BVCC newsletter, and happy new year to all.

The highlight of 2010 must be the award of two grants, one from Sport England and one from Hampshire & the Isle of Wight Community Foundation, which have enabled us to buy over 30 new kayaks (general purpose, whitewater, sit-on-top/open cockpit, junior racing and polo) and 5 new open canoes, as well as more paddles and spraydecks, and some new cags and splash trousers. We now have a much more up-to-date fleet of boats and more importantly a bigger and better range of types and sizes of boat, which should mean that everyone can find something to suit.

Trip reports

The trip calendar was fairly quiet over the summer, but we had a couple of whitewater trips in the autumn.

Wye trip, July

About 15 of us headed to the River Wye in late July, camping at a nearby Forestry Commission site. We had a leisurely flatwater paddle on the Wye on the Saturday, followed by a fun session at the Symonds Yat rapids on Sunday morning, which provided a good introduction to moving water for quite a few people.



Barle trip, October

The Club's annual trip to the River Barle in Exmoor took place at the end of October. Well over 30 people attended, most of whom were paddling. A good number of our new boats got their first outing as well! Thanks to those who organised, cooked for us on the Saturday night, and lead on the river.



Dartmoor trip, November

Towards 20 of us headed down to Dartmoor for a weekend on the River Dart. Owing to high water levels on the Saturday, we didn't manage to fit in as much paddling as we had hoped, but nonetheless we all (except for two – who will remain nameless – who decided that watching the rugby in the pub would be a better option!) got out on the water in the afternoon, and had another good paddle on the Sunday.

River Wey, November

At the end of November about 10 of us braved the freezing temperatures for a flatwater paddle on the River Wey, which turned out to be much shorter than planned due to the fact that the river was freezing over in places!



“Non-club” trips

Aside from “official” club trips, club members have done some other fun paddling activities over the last few months, including:

- Trying out the new artificial whitewater course in Cardiff
- Sea kayaking 4 star training
- Open boating 5 star training

Coaching and courses

Well done to Doug Needham who has completed his L1 coach award. We have a couple of our existing L1 coaches, Ian and Dave Cook, in the process of completing their L2 training. Mike and Ed are also doing the training for the L3 coach award.

We now have two new welfare officers – Matt Williams and Alan Blyth (contact details are at the end), who have completed the necessary training. Well done and thank you to both!

Polo

With all leagues well underway I'm pleased to say that we now have 5 teams entered across 4 leagues.

Blackwater A have got off to a strong start in National league Div 3 Central, having played 9 games across 2 tournaments, we are sitting in a strong 4th place with 2 points between us and 2nd place which would give us chance of promotion to Division 2. With two more tournaments to go, our next one being on the 22nd January in Luton, we stand a good chance of raising our game and changing the league table to our benefit. Bryan Boswell has racked up enough goals to earn himself the title of top goal scorer across the entire league with 13 goals scored.

Blackwater B&C are both playing in Div 4 South West, currently being placed 7th & 8th consecutively, although the 'C' Team are higher in the league table. The season has been fraught with logistical issues, as you can imagine with 10+ people and kit attempting to converge on Cheltenham at the same time, but 9 games in it looks like things are settling down for the teams. made up of a mix of experienced, new talent and poached players the teams show great potential. Ben Lawrence is showing good form and despite being in the final year of his degree has made positive steps to organise and captain the C team, with the younger players benefiting from his years of game play. Tim Blyth continues to captain the B team with other experienced players forming the rest of his contingent. Their next tournament is on the 15th January at Cheltenham.

Blackwater mixed have got off to a very strong start in the South West Invitational League. This tournament has been entered in order to mix up all three teams and allow different paddlers to play together, the first tournament saw five A team players field a team with excellent results, winning every game comfortably and putting us at the top of the league. Our second tournament, to be played on 16th January at Millfield Pool in Street, will see the same five A team players fielded in order to act as warm up for the following weekends Div 3. The most significant different of this league being that the games are played on a 50m Olympic pool which really tests fitness and stamina. Good for blowing out those post Christmas cobwebs. Expect consistent results and a top place finish.

Possibly the most exciting advent in Blackwater Canoe Polo has been the formation of Blackwater Youth. Drawing from the experience of The Bartons, both playing with adult teams in Div 4, some established paddlesport polo players, Jack, Tom , and new paddlers Cameron & Dillon, Blackwater Youth attended their first tournament of National League Youth Div 2 at Dagenham pool in late November (see below). Special thanks to Alan Blyth who is not only organising the Youth team but also putting on one of the tournaments for this league.

Last piece of news is sad news in that Mark Raymond is returning to Australia after 8 years in the UK all of which have been spent playing polo for Blackwater. Being probably the most consistent team member, having played in all teams over the years at whatever level required, Mark is finishing his tenure with us having played the last two seasons at the top of his game in the A team. we wish Mark the best of luck.

Polo training takes place on Wednesday evenings at Alton Swimming Pool between 8.30-10.00pm through out the winter, all welcome, please contact us in advance if you wish to attend so that we can make sure we have enough kit.

Matt Williams

Youth polo



On Saturday 20 November (after some manic last minute organisation from myself) Matthew and I took six kids up to Dagenham for the first of the Division 2 Youth South league, we got to try out the new boats which went down a storm, and see what the competition is like.

The kids played very well together, with Matt Barton captaining the team, consisting of PJ, Dillon, Jack, Tom and Jordan. After 5 tough games we came away with 2 solid wins, and 3 losses, the most notable performance coming from a tight game against Viking Youth, who consist of more than 1 GB under 21 hopeful, the end score a loss of 3 - 2, but the energy and tightness of our game during the match was inspiring.

There was good banter all the way through, and we look forward to the next fixture in the new year, to be confirmed. Special Thanks to Phillip Rowley and Marianne Barton for agreeing to give lifts, and to Matt for helping me collect the boats, take them back afterwards, and ultimately allowing me to sleep in his spare room after forgetting my keys.

Any other kids who want to play polo can contact me at alan.blyth86@gmail.com.

Alan Blyth

Paddlepower

Over the summer season we had lots of fun trying out the new boats and Space hoppers! Also we were able to take part at the Hampshire Games at Mychett doing another Olympic Slalom which yet again we had excellent weather.

End of 2009 – 2010 Winter Paddle Power Series

The finale of the Winter Season was the Trip to the Nene for an Introduction to white-water for all the youngsters who had participated during the year. All had a fun time and it was very much appreciated by the organisers that the club coaches and other senior paddlers helped out.

Overall the Club came a creditable 2nd against some large clubs, well done.

With a very hot July we had the family event at Pangbourne Regatta at Bealepark where we were awarded our plate and Brandon got the most certificates! Next year the club should have a go as it is open to over 18's and I will remember my kit!



New Winter Season 2010 -2011

We had the traditional start event of the season with the Triathlon at Reading Canoe with Claire coming 2nd in the Girls class and the club was overall 4th.

Next Event, we had a fun Canoe event at the new Adventure Dolphin Centre at Pangbourne . We started the event by climbing the new indoor climbing wall with Tom Page showing how it should be done. Then it was the Orienteering on the wet meadow with the 17, somehow the Tripp brothers came back with 20 checkpoints! Other events were the X stream challenge amongst the Bridge legs followed by the Throw line into a Boat, with Poling and then a Sprint with the final event of the swim out to a boat, climb in and then the paddle back everybody wanted to do it again not sure why?!

After the exploits of Pangbourne we had the Wave hopper Challenge on the Mill Stream in Newbury with Richard Green and Ian Morris helping out the youngster's race the white-water and currents of the Kennet& Avon Canal.

Due to snow boating weather of December the Pre Christmas fun event was cancelled but it was good to see so many kids and parents at the Xmas Dinner with Jake winning the Best Improved award and Ollie the Best Swimmer.

Hopefully everybody has had a Good Xmas and New Year now the year starts with the Polo Series of three events.

Many Thanks to all of you for taking part over the year and paddling the lido until end of November and to all the Parents/Carers for ferrying the youngsters around plus hanging around in the cold!

Over the next few months we will be organising a few trips and training sessions for assessments.

Best Wishes

Ed

Tesco & Sainsbury Vouchers

A great thank you from the Committee to all of those who collected the Tesco and Sainsbury vouchers and donated them to the club. We were able to buy a few mesh bags and ball bag which we can use for the wet kit, a Balance Ball for games and exercises plus a Group Shelter. Hopefully this coming year we can collect even more vouchers!

Club nights during the winter

Our Wednesday night club sessions during the winter will be indoors at our winter venue, the Basingstoke Canal Centre in Mytchett (<http://www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk/>). Sessions will start at the usual time of 7pm and finish at 8.30pm. We ask that you contribute £1 towards room hire and also a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. If you have any (sensible!) ideas for topics that you would like to cover over the winter, please email them to chairman@bvcc.org.uk.

In addition, as an alternative to Mytchett, the polo team welcomes anyone who would like to train with them at Alton on a Wednesday night. Email polo@bvcc.org.uk if you would like more information.

From the start of April we will still be at Mytchett but we will be paddling outside on the canal.

Winter indoor pool sessions

As in previous years we will be running some indoor pool sessions during the winter. The main purpose of these sessions is to cover rolling, rescues and water confidence, rather than general paddling practice – the activities that most of us would prefer not to be doing outdoors at this time of year!

Unfortunately our normal venue, RAF Odiham, will be closed for refurbishment for a few weeks, but we have provisionally secured the use of a pool in Cranleigh. Sessions will be on Friday 14 January and Friday 4 March, from 7pm to 9pm, and will be split into two sub-sessions, one for the juniors and one for adults. We will send a reminder email out prior to each session.

Trip/event calendar

We have now put together the trip calendar for the winter season. We will be running whitewater weekends in Dartmoor on 29/30 January, 19/20 February and 12/13 March. Keep an eye out on the forum for further details, although we will also send an email out to all club members as well.

In addition we will be running several flatwater daytrips closer to home on the Basingstoke Canal or other local waterways – more information to follow. On Sunday 9 January we will be holding our annual winter paddle and BBQ – let's hope it's a bit warmer than last year!

Details of all club events (club nights, trips, paddlepower, polo) and be found on the trip/event calendar on the website (<http://www.bvcc.org.uk/trips-training/>).

BVCC Christmas meal and awards

The annual BVCC Christmas meal and awards were held on Wednesday 15 December. Hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves, and well done to all those who won awards.

Club volunteers

Thank you to all those who have helped out during the year – the rest of the Committee, coaches, and all those who helped out at the lido and other events. Well done also to Ed, who has been awarded a volunteer recognition certificate by the BCU.

We are always grateful for extra pairs of hands on lido nights – helping with kit, pointing first-timers in the right direction and so on. Similarly for Mytchett sessions and for trips – if anyone would like to get involved with running one of the weekly Mytchett sessions, please email chairman@bvcc.org.uk. We are also always grateful for people to help transporting boats and other

kit over the winter, to indoor pool sessions, local flatwater trips and also for Wednesday night sessions on the canal once we get into April.

Lindsay

Club notices

- Club clothing: the first order of club clothing, for those of you who ordered before Christmas, is due to arrive shortly. We will do another order in due course if there is enough interest, so please let us know if you would like anything.
- Hopefully over the summer you will all have noticed that we have a re-organised boat store. Towards the end of the Lido season we have made a few further changes to improve storage, and for the next Lido season we will be looking to make better use to whiteboards etc to provide information (e.g. which courses are running that night, where to sign in etc)

Contacts

Details of club contacts are below.

Chair	Lindsay Heeley	chairman@bvcc.org.uk
Vice-Chair	Matt Williams	chairman@bvcc.org.uk
Secretary	Ian Morris	secretary@bvcc.org.uk
Treasurer	Damian (Ed) Edwards	treasurer@bvcc.org.uk
Coaching officer	Bob Hamilton	coaching@bvcc.org.uk
Youth officer	Damian (Ed) Edwards	youth@bvcc.org.uk
Polo	Glenn Carlton	polo@bvcc.org.uk
Youth polo	Alan Blyth	youthpolo@bvcc.org.uk
Courses	Graham Snook	courses@bvcc.org.uk
Events	Mark Lovegrove	events@bvcc.org.uk
Website	Mike Hamilton	webmaster@bvcc.org.uk

Paddlesafe

Be safe

Are you being heard?
Is something worrying you?
Are you keeping it to yourself?
Need someone to listen?



Contact us in confidence

Your Club Welfare Officers:

Damian (Ed) Edwards

Telephone: 07715 749636

e-mail: edwardsdamian@hotmail.com



Matt Williams

Telephone: 07790 915888

e-mail: wmd@hotmail.com



Alan Blyth

Telephone: 07969 350218

e-mail: alan.blyth86@gmail.com



BCU CHILD PROTECTION

24 Hour Child Protection Contact Number Mobile: 0777 570 7364

(For use by professionals and people wishing to report incidents outside of office hours)

e-mail: childprotection@bcu.org.uk

BCU Child Protection, Vulnerable Adults and Harassment Lead Officer –

Mike Devlin Tel: 0845 370 9514

Postal Address: Child Protection, British Canoe Union, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottingham, NG13 8AP

For more information on our child protection policy please visit www.bcu.org.uk

NSPCC Child protection Helpline: 0800 0800 5000

Childline 0800 111 (a free 24 hour helpline for children in distress or in danger)