

POOL SESSIONS SUCCESS

The pool sessions were a grand success. Strode Road had never had kayaks in their pool before and it took some work to convince them, but we got there in the end. Here are some statistics to prove the success:

10 pool session booked
26 Minimum attendees on a night
50 Maximum attendees on a night
98 Different members attended
357 Entrance fees paid
In particular, the pool sessions taught those attending how to

capsize safely, which will be important on the Marine Lake or on river trips.

We will be booking more pool sessions for the Autumn shortly.



CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Congratulations to the 9 newly qualified L1 coaches: Alistair MacDonald, Bob Slee, Gavin Price, Martin Uzzell, Neil Banwell, Nick Calfe, Nigel Barnes, Rich Buckley, Steve Holland. Their qualification will help the club to train other members to BCU 1 star level. They achieved their qualification over a hectic couple of weekends kindly organised by Bob Slee and Mike Perrott. The first weekend involved an all day first aid course on the Saturday, held in

Bob's factory while the sun blazed outside. The Sunday morning involved an arduous assessment in paddling skills by Bob to check people were up to standard to attend a weekend coaching course in Bude the following weekend, taught by the legendary Simon Hammond (World Surf Kayaking Champion 2003). The weekend at Bude involved getting very wet practicing capsize and rescue drill. Fortunately, it did not rain as the high class accommodation Bob organised was tents; it was hot and sunny, the location beautiful, the pasties tasty, and

NEW SECRETARY NEEDED

Thanks to Lynne for being Secretary for the past 6 months. We are now looking for a new secretary. If you are interested, please send an email to the following address: clevedon@clevedoncanoeclub.org.uk

the coach inspirational so every one passed easily. There was even time for a little surfing after the course, although most spent their time emptying capsized kayaks!!



CLUB NIGHTS

Remember, we meet socially the first three Thursdays in each month at the Clevedon Sailing Club from 7pm onwards. We pay for the pleasure from club funds so let's make the most of it.



SAFETY HELMETS , A MUST SAYS TRAINER

Clevedon Canoe Club's inaugural in-house training session kicked off on Saturday 5th May with BCU1* and BCU2* trainees on the Marine Lake. By a strange coincidence, the date also marked the half centenary of Alistair MacDonald, CCC's newest coach.



Alistair demonstrating how to look good in the correct kit to a younger club member.

GOOD ADVICE....

When using a public camp site, a tuba placed on your picnic table will keep the campsites on either side vacant.

A hot rock placed in your sleeping bag will keep your feet warm. A hot curry works almost as well, but a poppadoms leave crumbs in your bag.

Lint from your navel makes a handy fire starter. Warning: Remove lint from navel before applying the match.

When camping, always wear a long-sleeved shirt. It gives you something to wipe your nose on. Take this simple test to see if you qualify for solo camping. Shine a flashlight into one ear. If the beam shines out the other ear,

do not go into the woods alone.

The guitar of the noisy teenager at the next campsite makes excellent kindling.

In an emergency, a drawstring from a parka hood can be used to strangle a snoring tent mate

While the Swiss Army Knife has been popular for years, the Swiss Navy Knife has remained largely unheralded. Its single blade functions as a tiny canoe paddle.

The canoe paddle, a simple device used to propel a boat, should never be confused with a gnu paddle, a similar device used by Tibetan veterinarians.

THANKS TO GRIFFON CANOE CLUB

An unexpected visitor bearing gifts arrived at the lake Saturday morning. Alan from Griffon Canoe Club, brought along a two man slalom kayak, which was now too big for his club to store (membership 30 people). Alan asked if we could find a home and after giving members an expert demonstration, we became the proud, new owners.

WARNING: the kayak is a specialised craft and difficult to exit when capsized. The craft is not to be used without supervision.



NEXT TWO CLUB MEETINGS

Since we are unable to use the Sailing Club again until June 7th, the next 2 Thursday Clubnights will be held on the Marine Lake.

Everybody is welcome to come along and "have-a-go". The boatstore should be open from around 6.30pm. (Well that's the plan anyway!)

Unfortunately Alistair will not be serving drinks from the bar, but I will ask nicely and see if he can bring his Thermos.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Inuit invented the kayak, a one person boat used for hunting and transportation, and propelled by a double-bladed paddle. Inuit used driftwood or whalebone to make a light framework, and covered it with stretched skins, made watertight with whale fat.

Hunters wore a sealskin "annuraaq" to keep water from getting into the boat (the origin of the modern name "anorak" for a waterproof cover). The hood and wrists were tightly tied, and it was long enough to be tied around the cockpit. So how did they get out if they capsized? Simple. They didn't.

It was considered suicide to come out of the boat. There was no protection from the icy cold water, no buoyancy in heavy skin clothing. If you rolled over, you had to know how to roll right back up!

Perhaps we can't sell fridges to Eskimos but maybe we can sell pool sessions to the Inuit!

VIEW FROM THE BANK

You might be wondering what has happened to all the money you handed over when you joined.

Well, Barbados was great, thanks.

Actually, our spending has been fairly modest. Our major expenses, so far, have been affiliation costs to Clevedon Sailing Club and the British Canoe Union.

Apart from that we've

THIS MONTH'S CAPTION COMPETITION



The best suggestion will be rewarded with a £5 prize (assuming you can extract it from Martin) and will be printed in next month's issue along with the best of the rest.

spent a bit on some kit helmets, spraydecks, paddles etc, to make the most of the Community Fleet kayaks.

The big news recently is a Grant from Clevedon Town Council, which we are planning to spend on a couple of boats.

Failing that I haven't been skiing for years!

Martin Aspinall

THAT SINKING FEELING

How to start a new project? How to keep people interested in what you're reading? How to make people laugh to themselves? These are all questions I have been asking myself, since I raised my arm and said aloud "I'd like to try my hand at journalism and write a monthly column for the club newsletter". Would I make it fully paddling related, or should I slip some everyday things in there, so as not to bore people with science?

Questions!!!! life is full of them, as a father of three I have more than my fair share of them and one that has plagued me for a while now, is whether I would ever get my youngest son Harry to paddle, not just forward, but in any direction, as long as he got to grips (excuse the pun) with holding a paddle and moving his boat.

Well, as most of you will be aware, a few members and myself took a trip to the mighty Atlantic coast last month, to get some training skills with the aim of helping train the members of our club that wish it. The trip went well and we came away from it level one coaches and get this.... Canoe safety

lifeguards.

With this new found Jedi like feeling I felt I could tackle the problem of my son's inability to hold a paddle. We arrived at Marine Lake and did our newly learned warm up and I passed my other son into another group so I could put all of my efforts in Harry, we started slowly and my usual frustration started to creep in when a voice in my head said to me

"Neil, you can do it, the BCU has faith in you".

A strange vision of our assessor Simon Hammond speaking in Obi Wan Kenobi's voice came to mind and I took another tack and changed teaching style and within 10 minutes my fantastic son was paddling free as a fish around the lake.

I was overjoyed to say the least and in my excitement promised to take him to the cinema to see the new Spiderman movie, after all I was keen to see it myself and so was my wife and eldest son. I got home and booked the tickets and off we went, we got popcorn and soft drinks..... The sum total of this trip was over £50!! I did not grumble

as I knew what I was rewarding but did make a point of telling the boy that from then on all new strokes mastered would be rewarded with a pat on the back and a bar of chocolate.

The point I am making in a longwinded way is that paddling is not for everyone, some people will never take to it but the ones that do must be nurtured and encouraged all the way, as the paddling life is a full and varied one, that can see you all over the globe, having some of the wildest runs or most relaxing times possible.

I only wish I had got the bug 25 years ago when I sat in an old fibreglass boat in North Wales on a school camp, instead of discovering my love for the pastime when I was already into my thirties.

So if you or your children show a spark of interest then pour some fuel on it and fan the flames as hard as you can.

Oh and on the topic of the £50 pound cinema bill I do have another question

.....Why???????

Niel Banwell