

# CLEVEDON PADDLER

March, 2008

## GRANT FUNDING SUCCESS

We recently applied to Awards For All for a grant to help develop the club. The fantastic news is that we have just heard we have been successful and granted the maximum amount of £10,000. This money is intended to cover the following items:

- 12 dedicated pool kayaks + equipment to be kept at Strode Road swimming pool. This will save us having to clean and transport kayaks kept at the lake.
- One open canoe (MARLENS have kindly donated a further £1,000 to us to buy two canoes and kit. These are needed to teach canoeing, which is now a required discipline for anyone who wants to progress through the BCU star awards)
- Storage racking at the Strode Road swimming pool for the pool kayaks and at the boatshed for the canoes and other kayaks currently stored on the floor.
- Conversion of the store cupboard in the boatshed into a changing room
- 50% subsidy towards training costs for six Level 1 and six Level 2 and one Level 3 coach
- Two pontoons, a slide, and a slalom course on the lake.

## CAPTION CORNER

Just send your entry to [events@clevelandcanoeclub.org.uk](mailto:events@clevelandcanoeclub.org.uk)

Last month:



*I'll have to speak to Bob, he must have sold me a submarine instead of a kayak!*

This month:





## SKITTLES NIGHT

Two teams were formed from those that attended with one big match played. I can't remember who won but it was a very close finish.

This was followed by a game of "Killer". For those that have never played it before, each person has three lives, which means they have to knock down at least one skittle on their throw, aiming at what ever is left from the previous person's throw. There was a nail biting finish to the game played out by Nigel Barnes and Gavin Price. By sheer fluke (ignoring the fact he hadn't missed a skittle all night) Nigel finally snatched victory and the winning "fiver" prize money.

It was an easy night for the adults attending as the whole event was organised by the junior members, who herded the adults into play when they forgot whose go it was, calculated scores, and made sure the skittles were tidied away and replaced whenever it was required.

On the success of the above, we are thinking of a dart competition next, to be held at the Sailing Club so watch for dates.

Gavin



## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



### Boatshed's Leaking roof

The new roof on the boatshed has been leaking and causing puddles in the boatshed so I contacted Joe Norman, MARLENS secretary, as MARLENS paid for it to be built. He referred it to NSDC who will be tackling the drain-pipes, which also empty into the boatshed, but no mention of dates, no mention of roof. We are hoping things will be sorted before the schools sessions that start in April.

### BCU Club of the year

Unfortunately we did not get nominated. Our nominations impressed the judges in terms of the hard work we are dedicating towards ensuring the club provides top quality environment within the community and we have been strongly advised to ensure our nomination is submitted for next year's awards.

### Awards For All

Fantastic news! We hope to get the money soon so watch this space. We could do with a hand organising things so if anyone is interested in helping just email [events@clevedoncanoecub.org.uk](mailto:events@clevedoncanoecub.org.uk) or speak to anyone on the committee. If you don't kayak and you enjoy DIY there will be plenty of construction work you can help with

## THAT SINKING FEELING

The great British summertime!! I ponder this as my clock goes forward an hour and my garden preparations move into fever pitch.

You have to understand that I have always wanted a nice garden; nothing too ostentatious but nice and relaxing and, above all, colourful. Well, I have spent every spare moment for the last 2-3 months getting my garden from muddy, boring, oversized, doggy toilet to calm, tranquil and, even if it is very immature, potentially very nice garden.

I have rerouted the path, changed the decking round, put log borders around the new flower beds, built and fitted a raised planting box for a wide variety of herbs in the corner that always commands the sun, I have put a bird bath/feeding table next to my pair of guardian gnomes, a log man, a gothic arch, the list goes on and on and on.

The point behind all this is as a result of my green fingers, I have done hardly any paddling at all since the turn of the year and this is vexing me as every time I do sit in my boat lately my left leg dies. This is not a slow death, this is a fast furious death that can only be reversed by exiting the boat and doing the numb dance I have invented.

My boat is now on its forth fit out as I try to remedy the problem. The last incarnation was trialed on the river Wye that was moving very fast and within 5 minutes BOTH of my legs were asleep?????? So, being in the privileged position I am, as far as kayaking goes, I took it back to work and have tried another fit out and can't wait to try it. But, all of a sudden, that is a hollow thump sound in the bottom of my brain as the penny drops, well it dropped the other night when I was racing to the pier for a evening paddle on the high tide, what was this strange feeling in my feet as I drive my car? It couldn't be my Profile boots could it? Are they too tight and assisting in the strangulation of blood to my legs? I am thinking along these lines folks, we will see.

I want to take this chance to wish Tom Barnes luck as he ventures towards his first competitive stab at freestyle kayaking later on this month.

Good luck Tom I know you will do us proud.  
Later folks and hopefully see you all soon.  
Neil



## SEA KAYAKING TRIPS

Great news about the A4A grant, which will help develop coaches and skills within the club because at the moment most of the club coaches are only qualified to lead others on enclosed waters, such as the lake. In the mean time, some of us have been drawing on professional organisations to gain more experience, such as Mendip Outdoor Pursuits, Seakayaking Cornwall, Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre, etc. I have just organised three sea-kayaking trips through Mendip Outdoor Pursuits (MOP):

- 11th May – paddle to Isle of Wight and back
- 8th June – paddle around Berry Head
- 12th July – rock hopping at Lulworth Cove

These are all day trips, cost £35 paid to MOP for expertise, transport and tuition, plus £5 to hire sea-kayaks if you don't own one. There are two spaces left on the Berry Head trip and three on the Lulworth Cove trip so if you want to come email [events@clevedoncanooclub.org.uk](mailto:events@clevedoncanooclub.org.uk) or phone me on 01275 874766. MOP have said they can organise other trips specifically for us, or people are welcome to sign up to days out advertised on their website, for example they have a trip down the Wye on 27 June. Speak to me or speak to MOP direct if you are interested.

Gavin  
(PS I don't have shares in MOP, juts shared, good experiences!)

## **A VIEW FROM ABOVE THE WATER FROM – THE BLACK SEAGULL!!**

Well it has been an interesting time with the club as it has evolved from an idea at the MARLENS festival in 2006 to now. I have been there from the start as an onlooker, part-time voluntary helper and occasionally having a paddle myself, but I am taking this opportunity to just raise some issues and make some comments from a paddling member and a part time volunteer.

I didn't know if you all knew but the club is apparently numbering close to 190 members which is a very big club, especially since it has only been going for a short time. But the whole thing is run by only a small team of committee members who are constantly trying to work for the better for the club.

No doubt they have to do many things that you don't get to hear about but I really do think that members should contribute more to the club, other than tuning up occasionally to have a paddle. I do my bit when I can but like many I have other things on, but:

Don't use that as an excuse not to help out, these people need help at the Marine Lake with all the gear to be taken in and out of the boat shed and to administer who is doing what on the waterside...I think they have done a valiant job so far but more of you could at least offer to help, even if it is for 1 or 2 hours for a session during the coming months, especially with a big open day they are apparently planning which along with the Marlins Festival will be all day events (where we all started) and volunteer – again even if it is for only an hour.

If your down there, don't leave your children with them...I am very concerned as a parent myself that other parents leave their children, especially with the better weather coming up and using the committee members as a crèche facility.....you should stay as your children are still your responsibility and not to put the onus on them.

Having been to a few of the club social events, it has been disappointing that so few people have turned up for them...these are social events but they are also fund raising things so that the club can buy more equipment for the members to use – It must be disappointing for the organisers for so few not to turn up – so support the events – you might just have fun and also be supporting the club for the future.

The pool sessions have now finished for the summer and I had the opportunity to go to some of them....which was great but too many that went were wrapped up in what they wanted to do and not help others...I have heard on the grapevine that some of the helpers / trainers who volunteered haven't had a chance to do training themselves because some progressed but didn't then try and help out other than to help themselves! – Ironic that – too many takers and not enough givers.

OK so my gripe about fellow members has finished and now possibly a few comments about things that the organisers could improve on? Well I am lucky enough to hear about a few things that happen and this possibly involves members and committee people and the main thing surrounds the communication.

I like you all get a copy of the newsletter each month, receive the emails from the club and also the website, but one area that I think personally needs to be addressed is communication about trips.

There have been a few trips organised by the club, some of which I have been on and others I have not, but I understand that there are other trips organised amongst various parties either on their own or through outside organisations. This probably involves river trips, sea trips, white water etc – wouldn't it be good that others are told about it, if of course the organisers are not anti others joining them.

So trip organisers – official or not, tell people that you are doing a trip with Mendip Outdoor Pursuits , self planned or whatever and then see what the response is. If it needs some sort of qualification or approval of kayaking standards then so be it but at least it may generate more interest from the members.

I am quite sure that there are some fellow members who occasionally turn up who are actually quite well qualified, even if they don't have a piece of BCU paper, who may just love to go down waterfalls in a sea kayak or whatever, but as it stands we don't get to hear about this !!!

This then leads me onto the route for this – why don't we / can't we have a forum on the website so that these trips can be posted on there with contact details of who is organising it...could mean instead of 2 or 3 going that maybe 8 or 10 go for the better of the individuals and the club. Other topic items could be a help section, items for sale, general comments etc.

So next time your with some of the committee speak to them and lets have more audience participation as the saying goes and make this club as active as it was when it first started !!

Well my piece is said and hopefully the editor has space for all of this or doesn't edit things ☺

That's all from the Black Seagull and I look forward to seeing more of us mere water mortals on the Marine Lake, at a social event or even on a trip ☺

## SCHOOL SESSIONS

Mike Perrot, our lead coach, has been working hard setting up a schools training programme, providing introductory sessions to kayaking. Below are the sessions that have been arranged to date.

Mike would like help running these sessions. This ranges from helping on the side: checking arrivals and departures and making sure children don't wander off, making sure all the children have helmets, buoyancy aids, etc; or helping on the water: helping them into boats, herding them up when they blow away, etc. ALL HELP WELCOME

**If you can help, either email [events@clevedoncanoecub.org.uk](mailto:events@clevedoncanoecub.org.uk) or phone Mike 01275 854160 or 07929770405**

School & Contact Name	Days & Dates	Time & Duration	Status
BGS	Tuesdays 8th April to 8th July	2 - 3.30pm 10 Weeks	Confirmed
Backwell	Wednesdays 4th June to 2nd July (Except 11th June)	4 - 6pm 4 weeks	Confirmed subject to takeup
Yeo Moor	Wednesday + Thursday 30th April + 1st May	1.5 days	Confirmed Sailing too
St John's	Friday 2nd to 16th May and 6th to 20th June	3.45 - 5.15pm 6 weeks	Provisional Letters to parents term 4
Mary Elton	Monday to Friday 19th to 23rd May	9.30 - 11.00am 5 Days	Near confirmation
St Francis	Monday and/or Tuesday 16th/17th June onward	3.45 - 5.15pm 3 weeks	Provisional MCP to phone
Clevedon School	Monday 14th July	9.30am - 2.30pm All day - 2 groups	Confirmed Activity day includes Sailing
St Nicholas Chantry	Tuesday 22nd April to 10th June	3.30 - 5 & 5 - 6.30 2 Groups	Keen but no confirmation