



ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD CANOE CLUB



AFFILIATED TO CANOE ENGLAND

www.suttoncanoe.org.uk

NEWSLETTER ISSUE No 68

WINTER 2009/10

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I think that winter started on the 7th November most Saturdays up to then Vic didn't mind jumping in the lake But then!!!!

The Saturday morning sessions are shrinking to a steadfast few, but there are still surprises, new people are still turning up and having a go.

Talking of turning up, the two things that people have been bugging my ear about for the last six months or so are a baths session and moving water tours and both have now been provided but not well attended. We have hired a pool but we need you to be there (see later in the n/letter). I am exceedingly pleased to see that we have the best membership figures ever along with a great success at Blackroot pool. Rushall on the other hand has been very frustrating with planning issues, Walsall Council have now finally approved the plans so at last after a six month wait we can make plans to get things going again, we will be talking to the other parties on the site and planning together how we will go forward.

We have a great committee now everyone is very committed and over the next few weeks we will be planning for the AGM and after that, the new year when we hope to offer a better service to the members. We are 20 years old next year and I would like to mark it with a celebration I think a club dinner somewhere would be nice, what do you think, let me know!!

Merry Christmas and happy paddling

Mike

20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD CANOE CLUB

WILL TAKE PLACE ON
29th JANUARY 2010 AT
RUSHALL OLYMPIC FC
AT 8pm (more info inside)



BATHS SESSIONS
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

6.30pm TO 8.30pm

AT COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Come along and practice all your capsizing, rolling and lots of other things or just have a swim, there are boats at the pool just bring your own kit.

ONLY £3.50

CHRISTMAS SEASON CLOSURE

LAST SESSION AT

BLACKROOT POOL & RUSHALL

SAT 19th Dec

REOPENING ON SAT 9th JAN 2010

DON'T FORGET THE WEB SITE

SUTTONCANOE.ORG.UK

THERE'S LOTS TO SEE AND DO ON IT!!!

CLUB COMMITTEE 2010

If you live in the Sutton area and want to join the committee next year we will be pleased to have you, the team are a committed and dedicated group who are doing their best to make our club successful and I know they are doing a good job. From the 8th of January we will be meeting of Friday evenings usually at the football club at 8pm. In fact any member can turn up and contribute something, make suggestions, have a moan or just pop along to see how things work. There is a bar and we usually make it a social occasion.

Mike

FOR SALE

2 OPEN CANOES

MAD RIVER ADVENTURE 14

JUST USED BY THE CLUB AT THE DHOW ON THE CANAL
IN GOOD CONDITION

£ 300 ono

RING MIKE ON 0121 360 2136

CLUB WINDSCREEN STICKERS

ONLY £1

**AVAILABLE FROM BLACKROOT POOL,
JUST ASK SOMEONE**

RUSHALL REPORT

We have lost the whole summer at Rushall due mostly to a resident (who cannot even see the landing stage) complaining every time the digger started up. This ended up in us having to submit plans. Well we have waited & waited for the council to deliberate and have had site visits and the weeks have ticked on by. We have been able to do a small amount of work and the containers are sitting at the suppliers waiting for the word but we cannot move until we have planning permission in writing, we have it verbal but if we start the digger!!!. In October we found out that the area that we are going to occupy was, not actually leased to the football club and so this needed to be sorted out. We can use the slipway and so Saturday afternoons are happening (ring Sarah on 01922 424210) on a small scale.

Planning permission in writing has been granted on 12th November so now we will meet with the other parties involved and jointly decide the installation of all the facilities including mains power. We hope that when things get going we can rely on you all to help and not leave it to the usual few.

Mike

MEMBERS

ONE STAR COURSE

(PADDLEPOWER PASSPORT FOR UNDER 14'S)

AT BLACKROOT & RUSHALL

STARTING ON THURS 15th APRIL

**WE WILL BE RUNNING THIS COURSE FROM 6pm
UNTIL 8pm OVER FIVE WEEKS (INC JOURNEY
ON CANAL)**

**PRICE WILL INCLUDE BOAT HIRE
ADULTS £25 & CHILDREN £20**

**RING ROB 0121 353 3765
TO BOOK AND FOR MORE INFO**

CLUB AGM 2010

The club's AGM will take place on 29th Jan (see front page).
In line with the club's constitution 21 days notice of any motion or nomination for committee must be lodged with the secretary, Sarah Witheridge, 113 Westbrook Avenue, Aldridge, WS9 0BZ, TEL: 01922 424210

Please have any business for the AGM to Sarah by the 8th Jan.

CHASEWATER RESERVOIR

Just in case anyone would like to pop over and have a look Chasewater reservoir dam needs a lot of work on it and so starting in January the lake will be drained completely to allow work to be carried out . The lake should be empty by the end of January and will not be filled again until the end of June.

This will directly affect the canal at Rushall as water from the only other major source at Bradley, Wolverhampton will not be able to maintain the level as it is too far away to be effective. This will mean the level of the canal at Rushall could be a lot lower, this should not affect us too much but it will greatly affect the power boaters.

WE HAD A Life Boat collecting box at Blackroot Pool for a couple of weeks recently it netted £10.50 RNLI Sutton Branch thanks us for our efforts

CANOEISTS HELP DUCK ISLAND RETURN

We have all heard tales of the MP's duck island that cost thousands of pounds, well Sutton park has seen the floating duck island at Blackroot pool return for a minute fraction of that cost. Last summer vandals smashed up the duck island that had been a feature of Blackroot Pool for years.

In a joint venture, Sutton Park maintenance staff built a new island entirely from recycled material and on Saturday 28th November members of Royal Sutton Coldfield Canoe Club volunteered to tow it out into it's new position on the pool and secured it so that future generations of wild fowl can use it.

COACHING REPORT 2009

This has been the year of the coach.

We have nearly doubled our coaching staff. At the start of the year we had nine qualified coaches of whom five were rarely available due to work, distance, home and other group commitments. Thanks to Mike for organising the F.S.R.T. course and then the level one Coach weekends; we now have nine new level one coaches (this should have been twelve!!) plus Vic who is on his way to qualifying straight into level two coach. We now also have several others who are interested in becoming club instructors. A lot of enthusiasm is being shown towards the open Canadians, especially as it is now part of all basic qualifications.

We are now introducing beginners to the sport in both Canadian and Kayak. There has been plenty of coaching to do with over a hundred new members, not to mention the “come and try its” who have not pursued paddling beyond a couple of sessions. It now seems that every session at Blackroot there are some beginners, even last January we had beginners “ice breaking”.

I have been trying to encourage youngsters (u16) by awarding Paddlepower Start certificates for completing at least one session in both kayak and open boat, then onto Paddlepower Passport for at least six sessions of progress and hard work. The Tuesday and Friday school groups from Handsworth have been full of enthusiastic paddlers aged 9 to 13, over 200 of them have received their PP Start after at least a kayak session at Blackroot and journeying of at least a mile in an open boat at Rushall.

Our coaching now has to move forward to cater for those at One Star level and beyond. We do need more folks to go to Rushall and complete journeying on the canal- this may only be a couple of miles, equivalent to ten times round Blackroot but a more interesting objective. It is a pity that several tours on easy rivers, especially led for beginners and their development have failed to attract the necessary numbers. The bath sessions should provide a good site for the continuation in basic skills in clear water, capsizing drills and moving onto the Eskimo roll.

Many thanks to **ALL** those who have helped in many ways towards coaching and bank support at Blackroot and elsewhere.

Rob

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009

2009 has been another landmark year for the club but our successes have been tinged with frustration and challenges. During late 2008 the committee realised that the club needed instructors, Rob & I being the main coaches where not getting any younger and needed assistance. At the start of 2009 we decided to buy in a level one coach course to allow twelve paddlers in the club to gain the qualification. I made an application to the National Lottery for £2000 to fund the course but I got turned down on a technicality. Having made the commitment to the members we decided to press on and I must say that I believe it to be the best money we have spent. By mid July we had gained 10 new instructors, who are committed and ready to help the members of the club, a good proportion of them are now on the committee which has invigorated the meetings. I retired from the day job in July and now can devote some more time to the running of the club than I used to be able to.

We are unusual in that we have 2 club centres but we feel that they both compliment each other and provide different things for members. Blackroot is our success story at this time, it was finished by the spring and it has been very successful, it is our shop window, with members of the public passing by and sometimes getting interested, even into the winter we have had a new person turn up almost every week. On June 6th at 10.30am the centre at Blackroot was officially opened by Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP during a torrential downpour that completely wiped out our open day plans. Rushall has, on the other hand, been a constant worry throughout the year, we started the year hopeful that we would be running by the summer, as the summer turned to Autumn our hopes disappeared. Plans were submitted in the spring to Walsall Council also British Waterways advised us on the construction of the slipway, we had work parties doing what work we could carry out which means that now the slipway is finished and the path has nearly reached the storage area, the fence and gate are installed and painted. British waterways have given us permission to use the slipway and so we have been able to paddle from there from late summer but with no real facilities we could not open properly. So we waited and waited for Walsall Council to approve the plans, site visits were made and we chased them over it but the plans were not approved until 12th November, I bet Sainsburys could have put a huge supermarket there in less time. We are now in discussion with all the interested parties on the site to agree a way forward and I hope that we will be able to open properly in the spring.

The web site is a must in this age of everything being on line, Adam has continued to make improvements over the year, we have videos and a new coaches forum along with the members forum. Talking of members we now have the largest membership in the club's history (see Rob's report), all this is due to the excellent committee we have now, I must thank them all for their work over the year, they have been wonderful and have thrown their all in to make the club successful. Next year is the club's 21st year, looking back I can see how far we have come, we had ambitions but could not foresee that we would have a centre in the park and even a landing stage by the canal or be one of the most respected club in the region, but now I feel that by pulling together we can achieve our aims and look forward to a good future.

Merry Christmas and happy paddling

Mike

Royal Sutton Coldfield Canoe Club Membership Report 2008/9.

1. During the year, the Club had 234 members, of whom 65 did not rejoin.
2. Of the 169 members at 31st October 2009, 2 had rejoined the Club after a 2/3 year gap, 61 had rejoined from 2008 and 106 were new members.
3. New member numbers have increased dramatically, due mainly to our new Saturday sessions and after successful Open Days in May & September.

Our use of Blackroot Pool is a still proving very magnetic. It is a very good 'Shop Window', with passers-by to and from the Bistro helping to spread the message - they're canoeing at Blackroot.....etc....

In 2002 there were 31 new members. '03 - 63, '04 - 27, 05 - 22.

In 2005/6 there were 40 new members after our move to Blackroot.

In 2006/7 there were 46, '08 - 67 and

In 2009 we had 106 new members.

Non-renewal	Category	Renewal	New	Paid-up-total
22	Full	34	35	69
9	Youth	3	2	5
9	Junior	8	25	33
1	Country	1	1	2
12	Family	9	25	34
8	Minor	4	18	22
	Honorary	2		2
4	Affiliated	2 + 1*		3
65	TOTALS	63	106	169

* 1 of our Affiliated groups are free by special agreement with the Committee.

4. 37 of our Club members are also members of the B. C. U.
5. 4 family names have held continuous Club membership since the Club's founding in 1990, (Dowsett, Leadley, Nicholls and Stanton).

Rob Leadley - membership hat.

Royal Sutton Coldfield Canoe Club
Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting
Held at the Rushall Olympic Football Club on Tuesday 20th January 2009

1. Chairman's Welcome. Mike welcomed members to Rushall Olympic Football Club for the 19th AGM.

2. Present: Steve Maker, John Bottrill, Vic Taylor, Paul Ryder, Dave Cross, Dave Jones, Simon Gledhill, Stuart Benson, Peter Corbett, Graham Thorne, Mike Nutt, Peter Jovicich, Mike Nicholls, Rob Leadley, Sarah Witheridge.

2.1 Apologies: Jeni Aulman & Dave Stanton

3. Minutes of Last Meeting: Acceptance of the minutes of the 2008 AGM were proposed by Stuart Benson and seconded by Sarah Witheridge.

4. Annual Reports, Presentation and Adoption of:

Acceptance of the Annual Reports were proposed by Steve Maker and seconded by Pete Corbett.

Coaching Report: Rob presented this as per last meeting. It will be printed in the next newsletter. It covered: the move from Aldridge Marina to Rushall Olympic Football Club, the nightmare of the new BCU tests (only available off the internet!). The new Star Tests are 60 pages. The new Paddlepower is 50 pages. Rob has given out 150 Paddlepower Start Awards via school groups and some members. There is emphasis on multi boat usage. 15 – 20 school groups have certificates. There will be task and time trials for 2009. There should also be 12 new coaches for 2009.

Membership Report: was published in the last newsletter. We currently have the largest number of members ever in the club. Blackroot Pool is becoming increasingly popular and is a great forum for new members.

Rob is indebted to many members, Andy, Garion, Vic, Tim, Sarah and others for their help and involvement, and looks forward to 2009.

5. Presentation & Adoption of 2008 Accounts:

Acceptance of the Annual Accounts were proposed by Pete Jovicich and seconded by Tim Harris 2008 was a fantastic year. Revenue :Membership revenue is up £625. Equipment hire revenue has doubled. There was revenue from the sponsored paddle.

Expenditure: £1,349 has been spent on canoes and equipment, £300 on planning for the containers, £4,600 on the two containers at Blackroot. This is mostly covered in the Sutton Municipal Charities grant.

Generally: The sale of the Dhow is distorting the figures. Revenue from the Dhow will be spent on developing the Rushall site. £1,300 is already spent on the new Rushall container. There is an overall annual saving to the club from moving to Rushall Olympic FC, even taking into account the membership fees. Annual donations are estimated to be £1,800 for Rushall Olympic FC. Sarah and Tim suggested that depreciation should be shown, and there should be a full asset list drawn up.

6. Election of Officers:

Chairman: Mike Nicholls

Club Secretary: Sarah Witheridge

Treasurer: Jeni Aulman

Coach : Rob Leadley

Committee: Vic, Tim, Dave, Pete, Steve, Sarah, Adam, Stuart.

Carried by a show of hands to reselect the committee.

Mike said the committee is currently one the best the club has had, and is doing a great job.

7. Auditor

Jim Thom has offered to be the auditor for 2009.

8. Resolutions:

Rob proposed changing the Young Members age range to bring it in line with school age brackets.

Under 12s (primary school age) Up to and including Year 6 – Minor members

Years 7-11 – Junior Membership

6th Formers & College students up to the age of 20 – Youth.

This will make very little difference to revenue but should reduce complications.

Carried by a show of hands.

9. Blackroot Pool Project.

Blackroot is up and running now. 5 new boats were added last week.

Tim is holding the Saturday Morning Club.

More help is required from other senior members.

Rob says £800 has been spent over and on top of the grant.

It would be good to get parents involved, such as stop watch operators for timed trials. Parents are not meant to 'dump their children and run'. There should be a parent or responsible person there for children 12yrs or under.

Tim suggested putting up an info board stating times & parents' attendance. The containers will be sign written with the club logo and web site address.

A sub-aqua club have requested another container next to ours. They want a separate gate for trailer access. They meet once a month.

The main open day will be Saturday 6th June at Blackroot.

Vic suggested doing another RNLI fund raiser on one of the other open day dates.

10. Rushall Olympic Football Club Project.

a) Rob had a meeting on 13th January at Walsall MBC with Rushall Olympic FC (Ray, Nick and John), meeting estates, environment and finance officers. The laying of a path for the canoe club was discussed. Walsall MBC raised concerns regarding rare species and replanting with indigenous plants. The Council also needs to change its lease terms as currently states only football allowed. The Council will extend their lease for another 25yrs.

Planning permission will be required, but we need to establish whether we, or the Football Club will apply. There will be a £300 planning fees cost. The football club would like to rebuild their stands, develop new changing rooms and mini soccer, tarmac the car park and consider opening a bowling green.

b) Sarah & Rob met with British Waterways on Monday 19th January. We have verbal permission to start proceeding with some initial work, such as replanting trees, and fixing the bank, using coir rolls to stop boat wash eroding the bank. There was some confusion over how to prepare the slipway...

11. Any other Business:

a) St Johns Ambulance will cost £250 per head for a first aid course. Paul Ryder recommended Brian Walker, who does the Scout group first aid courses. Sarah to call on 01543 682508 or 07850 217904.

b) There is a marked lack of response from BCU regarding issuing more CRB check forms. Rob and Sarah are now checked and approved.

c) There may be an opportunity for a session at Perry Beeches pool in a few weeks.

d) Tim suggested maybe working with Wyndley to swap coaching for some pool sessions.

The meeting closed at 9.25.

look smart in club gear
T shirts, sweat shirts, bags, ect
ring carol on 01543 675852

River Sow and Staffs & Worcs Canal Loop. Sunday 4th October 2009

We assembled at Blackroot 9:00 Sunday morning. The sun shone, the water glittered, the fishermen eyed us up suspiciously.

Didn't seem to have enough cars for the number of boats, but eventually John turned up with a big white van and we were soon on our way. The canal wharf launch site was a bit pushed for parking, so there was a hectic few minutes of dropping off gear, getting changed and generally trying to make sure nothing (and nobody) was forgotten before the transport was finally organized.

John (different one) had been waiting patiently for us and soon got us underway. I think I counted 15 of us on the water. Several people on their first tour, 6 I believe. A nice day for it too, if just a little chilly.

This was a new trip for me but John clearly knew the area very well and filled us in with interesting little snippets of information, for example pointing out Tixall Lodge and a Mary Queen of Scotts connection. So interesting a lady on a narrow boat having her morning coffee joined in the conversation at one point!

We safely portaged around a lock and seal launched back in without drama.

A little further and we reached the aqueduct. This involved a slither down to the river bank and a further slither down the bank (a bit steep) into the water. Stuart set the standard with a spectacular head-wetting splash. Sarah tried rearranging the river bed with the nose of her boat. Tim then seemed to take a slightly unhealthy delight in supervising launching, each one from a slightly higher point than the one before! He was last in with another very satisfying splash. Nice to be on moving water again, even if it was a fairly leisurely flow.

John told us how he had paddled this route last Winter when the river was in flood, very different to today's conditions. Passing through the grounds of Shugborough, we played in the water coming over a small weir. Angus got a bit stuck on some shingle- soon got going again though.

We needed to avoid the odd fallen tree and one of these led to our one incident of the day. Simon, one of our first timers (wearing his new cag too), got a bit sideways avoiding some branches; just where the river flow was running a bit quicker as well. Over he went, but safely out and to the side. He was very philosophical about the experience and maintained that going for a paddle was an excellent way to spend a Sunday! I believe it was his birthday too!

Before much longer we reached our get out point (at a garden centre) and clambered out for coffee, sandwiches and a chat about the day's events. I thoroughly enjoyed myself; I hope everyone else did too. Thought all our first timers were brilliant!

Thanks to everyone for their company and to all the organizers for making it happen.

Brian

TOURING CALENDAR

WINTER/SPRING 2010

ALWAYS CONTACT THE TOUR LEADER BEFORE THE TOUR AND TAKE HIS OR HER ADVICE AS TO YOUR FITNESS FOR THE CONDITIONS PREVAILING ON THE DAY OF THE TOUR. PLEASE TRY TO BE PROMPT AT THE MEETING PLACE AS WE DO NOT ALLOW MUCH TIME FOR WAITING ABOUT. WHEN WE MEET IT IS TO SHARE CARS FOR THE JOURNEY AND TO SHARE COSTS FOR THE TOUR. PLEASE OFFER THE DRIVER FUEL MONEY AS IT IS SOMETIMES EMBARRASSING TO ASK. ANY ENQUIRIES , ALTERATIONS TO PROGRAMME OR SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE TOURS PLEASE RING MIKE ON 01213602136. YOU MUST RING THE MEET LEADER IN PLENTY OF TIME AND BOOK YOUR PLACE, THE CUT OFF TIME FOR BOOKING WILL BE FRIDAY EVENING.

SUN 17th January 2010 RIVER TAME TOUR NEWTON ROAD TO PERRY BARR
This river will surprise you, suitable for most grades of paddler, but can be shallow. Meet at Blackroot at 9.30 am for Newton Road at 10.00am. Ring Tim/Sarah

SUN 24th January 2010 RUGELEY CIRCLE
Nice easy canal/river paddle, grade 1 suitable for most paddlers meet at Blackroot at 9am for Rugeley at 10.00am. ring Tim

SUN 7th February 2010 T&M CANAL/RIVER TRENT, HANDSACRE TO YOXALL BRIDGE.
This may be a new section to some of you but a very nice grade 0/1 with some moving water to train on. We shall be launching By Handsacre and touring down to Yoxall Bridge. Meet at Blackroot at 9am.

SUN 21st FEBRUARY 2010 RIVER SEVERN PLAY DAY
For those wishing to move onto faster water we are going to paddle a short tour from Arley to Bewdley and spend time learning moving water skills on Eyem ore rapids, Grade 1 Meet at Blackroot at 8.30am am from Arley at 10.00am. ring Mike.

SUN 7th MARCH 2010 RIVER TEME
This is a tour for those who are moving on to harder water please ask about your fitness for this tour. We will run the river Teme Ludlow to Ashford Carbonnel . Meet at Blackroot at 8.15am for Ludlow at 10am . Tour leader Mike Nicholls

SUN 21st MARCH 2010 RIVER DOVE TOUR
This tour is run by Burton Canoe Club and is the only time in the year that we are allowed to paddle this river. It an approx 11.5 mile tour from Sudbury to Newton Solney, suitable for improving paddlers as it has 3 weirs on it. There is a charge (TBA) levied by Burton CC as they provide a minibus for the ferry. Meet at 8.30am Blackroot for Aston Birdge, Sudbury at 10am. Ring Sarah/Pete

SUN 11th APRIL 2010 RIVER LUGG
Again this is a tour for those who are moving on to harder water please ask about your fitness for this tour. We will be paddling from Kinsham Bridge to Mortimers Cross, this is a twisting technical river with lots of small rapids and 6 weirs. Meet at Blackroot at 8 am. Tour leader Mike Nicholls

SUN 25th APRIL 2010 RIVER TAME /COVENTRY CANAL
Another local easy touring circle from the Tame Otter at Hopwas, paddling on the canal and the river Tame Grade 0/1 suitable for those wishing to gain moving water experience. Meet at Blackroot at 9am. Ring Tim