



ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD CANOE CLUB

AFFILIATED TO CANOE ENGLAND



www.suttoncanoe.org.uk

NEWSLETTER ISSUE No 72

WINTER2010/11

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

My friend Rob has gone, he was one of the people that I turned to for advice when I first joined Birmingham Canoe Club in 1970. He was always one of the river leaders on tours and as a keen newcomer I often drew on his freely given coaching and river leading skills until I developed my own. He was the man that showed me most of the rivers I paddled early in my career. With an appetite for white water I soon developed my own friends and paddling group within the club but Rob was always there to help, my first canoe polo boat was the Wombat (designed by Rob) my second polo boat was an improved Wombat 2 (part designed by me). He was there in 1985 along with John Heath to test me for my Advanced Proficiency (now 5 star) and subsequently persuaded me to join the coach course he ran later that year whereupon I became a Senior Instructor. Once I passed my assessment we colluded on many coaching courses teaching many Birmingham school teachers the skills needed to take children out on the water. It was when we shared a car over to Northfield to go to BCC baths session we talked about a club for Sutton as we were getting fed up of travelling well over 30 miles to go to the baths. So in 1990 we put our heads together and saw the potential for a club based in Sutton and brought people and venues together and so began Sutton club. That was 21 years ago and we have been proud to have been instrumental in making the club the success it is today.

I know this piece talks about me a lot but I hope that you can see through this to see why I will miss him so much. He had his faults as do we all but his commitment to the sport was complete and unfaltering. It is now up to me to take on the future and I hope with the help of the fantastic committee we now have we can do without him, but never forget him.

Mike

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE INFORMATION

LAST SATURDAY SESSION (both locations) will be 18th December 2010

REOPENING ON SATURDAY 8th January 2011

ICE PERMITTING

FOR INFO ON BLACKROOT RING MIKE ON 0121 360 2136

FOR INFO ON RUSHALL RING SARAH ON 01922 424210

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 28th JANUARY 2011 AT RUSHALL AT 8pm

ALL NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE AND ANY MOTIONS

MUST BE WITH SARAH 01922 424 210 BY 7th January

WINTER POOL SESSIONS

**BARR BEACON SPORTS CENTRE SWIMMING POOL
OLD HALL LANE WS9 0RF (off Beacon Road, Great Barr)
TURN FIRST LEFT INTO CAR PARK**

THURSDAY EVENING 9pm UNTIL 10pm

THERE ARE A FEW BATHS BOATS AT THE POOL

MEMBERS CAN BRING THEIR OWN BOATS

THE USUAL BOAT CLEANLINESS RULES APPLY

MEMBERS SESSION PRICE WILL BE £3.50 (AS LAST YEAR)

LAST NIGHT OF THESE SESSIONS WILL BE 31ST MARCH 2011

CLUB GEAR

POLO SHIRTS £8.50

FLEECES £17.50

CHILDREN'S T SHIRTS £ 6.50

CAR WINDSCREEN STICKERS £1

RING TIM ON 01543433562



THE CLUB IS 21 YEARS OLD
IN 2011 AND IT IS TIME
TO CELEBRATE
SO WE ARE HAVING
A PARTY

YOU ARE ALL INVITED

JANUARY 14th 2011

AT RUSHALL STARTING AT 8pm

THERE WILL BE DANCING, MUSIC & DRINKING & FOOD
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CLUB
SESSIONS OR FROM MIKE OR ON THE DOOR

**PLEASE BRING YOUR
FRIENDS**

**ALL ARE WELCOME
ONLY £5 PER COUPLE**

PLEASE BRING FOOD WITH YOU
ANN NICHOLS IS COORDINATING THE FOOD
SHE HAS A MENU PLAN SO PLEASE
CONTACT HER TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN BRING



0121 360 2136



ROBERT BRUCE LEADLEY 1942 to 2010

Rob was born in 1942 to Win & Arthur Leadley, an only child. He said he could remember V.E. celebrations at the end of the second world war. He attended King Edward's Aston, Grammar School & then went to St Peter's College, Saltley, where he gained a teaching Certificate in Education specialising in handicraft (woodwork) & maths.

Rob joined the staff at Blessed John Wall School (now St John Wall), Handsworth, where he taught full time for 34 years. Later he worked there part time, still doing some teaching & assisting the caretaker & staff.

Whilst at the school, together with Mike Baines & others he ran the school canoe club. They made their own canoes out of fibreglass, more than 300 being made altogether. There were many school camps with outdoor activities, usually canoeing & walking. The boys took part in some canoe slalom events with one boy later reaching the World Championships. Another later took part in an expedition to the Himalayas. Others simply enjoyed the sport, recognising it's value in giving excitement & refreshment to their young lives.

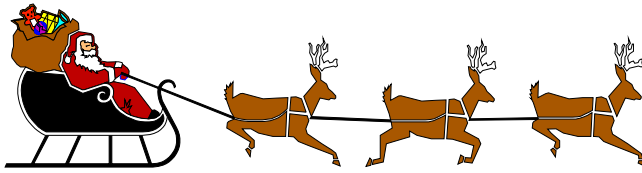
Rob himself won a few medals & his achievements particularly in coaching were recognised by receiving the Canoe England Award.

It was as Treasurer of Birmingham Canoe Club that Rob met Terry & they married in 1970. They are blessed with three children, Jeni, Andy & Jon together with delightful partners Christian, Helen & Rachel. They have four lovely granddaughters.

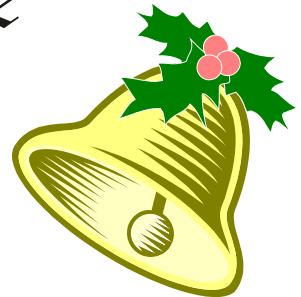
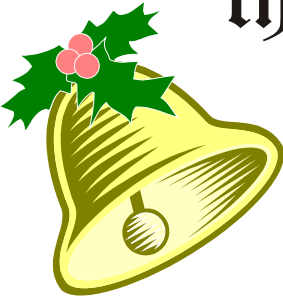
Rob was one of the founder members of Royal Sutton Coldfield Canoe Club. He was also interested in stamp collecting, cycling, walking & gardening. In his later years, he & Terry took up narrow boating, with son Jon taking a keen interest.

Rob died of a heart attack whilst asleep. At his request his ashes will be scattered in the river Vrynwy above Dolanog Falls.

Rob did believe in God & had a hope of eternal life. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.



Merry Christmas
from
the Committee



STOP PRESS

As you might have guessed this cold snap has frozen Blackroot & the canal at Rushall so sessions will not be happening until they are thawed. Also we may need to adjust the route of the Xmas Party Paddle, watch face book for updates or ring Tim or Mike

A big thank you to all that turned up on the 21st November to “Autumn Clean” the containers

River Tame and Coventry Canal Tour - 12th September

15 paddlers met on the sunny morning in question at Peel's Wharf at the appointed time. Ferry was arranged (thanks Rich) and we set off along the canal in fine spirits led by Pete and Tim. I paddled with Barb for a bit and admired her new red Dagger Blackwater. It looked very clean and shiny.

This paddle was part of the current 2 star course, though some of us were just along for the ride!

The first real excitement of the day was leaving the canal and joining The Tame. This involved seal launching from the bank, a reasonably long slope and a bit difficult for first timers. Tim supervised and we all managed successful launches. I did notice the new dagger was looking a bit grubbier now. Pete and Tim were last on the bank and then announced that they didn't fancy launching from there and set off down river to find an easier access!

We continued down on moving water, paddling through Tamworth and getting a whole different view of the A5 and the Snowdome. Next excitement of the day was the low weir just past Ladybridge. The weir had a tree caught against it but still with enough room to pass safely. Pete went first and set himself up as official photographer to catch the action. First group went over easily enough but Graham got a bit sideways. I rescued his boot (I do mean BOOT and not boat!) as it floated past, Graham rescued himself! Matt also took a swim here; I missed that but heard the splash.

We retired to the bank and Tim and Pete talked about the features and dangers of weirs. Another Seal launch was in order now. This time a bit higher and more of a drop - all good experience for the 2 starrers! All went well. I thought Alice's was particularly graceful. Then came Barb's turn. Oops! - Never mind, undaunted but a little wetter she tried again from a different part of the bank. Same result! Barbs remained determinedly cheerful though, and in fairness I don't think the keel of her boat helped much. Incidentally the boat was definitely muddy now and had lost its 'just out of the box' look.

We paddled the flood relief channel towards paper mill weir. It was a bit clogged up with weeds and not as pleasant as it could have been - a lot of litter too - a real shame.

Paper mill weir looks scarier than it is. Pete and I went first, Pete this time armed with his 'helmet cam.' We will have to check out Facebook for the results! Everyone shot through in fine style with no dramas. Great fun! Most of us clambered back up for a second go. The only casualty here was Simon who got it a bit wrong while playing in the white water at the bottom

We meandered the next part of the river spotting heron and kingfishers. The portage through Hopwas Woods back to the canal is always a test of fitness! Poor Rich made a bit of a mess of his launch back into the canal, but unfortunately made a worse mess of his shins when he climbed out, scraping them painfully across the concrete under hang which was hidden under the water. I was relieved to see him the next night at Blackroot not too much the worse for his mishap.

We paddled the last section of canal back to The Tame Otter. Barbs had dried out. Then she fell in again! By now the boat looked as though she had been paddling it for the last 10 years!

A very enjoyable mornings paddling, nice weather and great company. Thanks to Tim, Pete, Rich, Alison, George, Liam, Megan, Graham, Barb, Hannah, Matt, Simon, James and Alice.

Brian.

SPONSORED PADDLE

WE WANT REPEAT THE VERY SUCCESSFULL SPONSORED PADDLE WE HELD A FEW YEARS AGO THIS TIME WE ARE HOPING TO RAISE SOME MONEY TO GO TOWARDS A NEW TRAILER AND AS LAST TIME WE WILL BE SPLITTING THE MONEY WITH THE RNLI.

THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON SAT/SUN APRIL30th AND MAY1st AT RUSHALL, VARIOUS DISTANCES WILL AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO PADDLE YOU CAN PADDLE ONE OR BOTH DAYS USE ANY CLUB BOATS OR BRING YOUR OWN. £5 ENTRY FEE. SPONSOR FORM INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND AWAY

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A CLUB WEEKEND AWAY DURING SPRING BANK HOLIDAY TIM015430433562, GARION 07772964759, & ALISON ARE THE ORGANISERS, GET IN TOUCH TO SUGGEST A VENUE OR FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING. OR GO ON TO THE CLUB'S FACE BOOK SITE AND ASK THEM THERE.

CRIMESTOPPER HOTLINE

01908 302502

If you see a crime being committed on or involving the canal network please ring this automated telephone line to report it. This line has been introduced to help the police collate crime reports so that they can spot trends in criminal behaviour and crime hot spots around the network.

**IT IS NOT AN EMERGENCY NUMBER SO IF
YOU SEE A CRIME STILL RING 999**

SECRET RIVERS

Channel 280 Horse & Country Channel

For those of us with Sky TV I found this one whilst browsing, it is a series of 12 episodes where a presenter rather inexpertly paddles an open boat down various East Anglian rivers. But if you like rivers as we all do its worth a watch. If you have Sky Plus just record it and wizz through the adverts.

Mike

**FOR SALE
ACE JUMPER
GOOD CONDITION £60 ono
RING ANDY HUGHES ON 07581 417591**

**FOR SALE
GENUINE FORD MONDEO ROOF BARS
£35 ono
ring Mike on 360 2136**

CHASEWATER RESERVOIR update

To say they have their feet in the mud is the right pun to describe the progress over the repairs to the dam. At this time Litchfield Council who own the dam have only just appointed Galliford Try as the main contractors for the job and work will only start at the beginning of December. This is a full year after they began to empty the lake. The lake is now below "valve" level and so no more water will be coming from the lake. They estimate that work should be finished by the end of March and then they can start refilling the lake

BUT!!!!

The streams that flow into the lake are small and few in number and British Waterways Hydrologists think that even if we get a lot of exceptionally wet weather over the next 2 years it will only be back to normal by the end of 2013 and if it turns out normal it could take 10 years to attain it's full level.

This will affect the canal at Rushall for far longer than we expected but as BW have started to padlock the lock paddles overnight and keep Bradley pumps working 24/7 the level so far has not been too bad, they even have plans to pump from the Tame at Great Bridge if they get desperate.

Mike

CANAL/RIVER TRENT

HANDSACRE TO YOXALL BRIDGE 14/11/2010

Seven members met at Handsacre bridge, it being the middle of November it was cold and dank and not very inviting but with a promise of it getting better as the day wore on. This was Remembrance Sunday and so most of us had poppies, once the ferry was over with we got on the canal and paddled North. As Eleven o'clock got closer we drew near to the toilet factory and stopped by there as we could hear the radio coming out of the open windows, so we rafted up and paid our respects. On arriving at the river portage point I found that my favourite chink in the canal bank had been repaired (I have been using this as a get out for 40 years now) and so needed the help of most of those present to drag me out.

We met a chap on the bridge over the river who paddles the Trent a lot and stopped for a coffee and a chat, the river was quite high so it was easy to launch and the current helped us along. An uneventful paddle along the Trent brought us to the old Yoxall bridge where I managed to get out with a small help from Tim. It was great as the field gate was open so we could bring the cars right to the side of the river and load up, a nice easy Sunday morning paddle.

Mike

**DON'T FORGET
THE CLUB IS ON FACEBOOK TRY IT OUT
TO FIND OUT THE LATEST NEWS**

TOURING CALENDAR

WINTER 2011

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 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 0121 360 2136.

YOU MUST RING THE MEET LEADER IN PLENTY OF TIME AND BOOK YOUR PLACE, THE CUT OFF TIME FOR BOOKING WILL BE FRIDAY EVENING.

XMAS PARTY PADDLE

SUN 12th DECEMBER 2010 RIVER TAME /COVENTRY CANAL

A shortened version of our nice Hopwas tour. Grade 0/1 suitable for most paddlers, we start Peels Wharf and end up at the Tame Otter for lunch and a merry get together. If you don't want to paddle just ring Tim (01543 433562) about the pub booking & time. Meet at Blackroot 9am, baubles in your hat is a must.

SUN 16th January 2011 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 Sarah

SUN 30th January 2011 RIVER BANWY

This tour for those who are moving on to harder water please ask about your fitness for this tour, it will be limited to 12 people. We will run the river from by Melin Y Doll to Hennlan Meet at Rushall at 7.45am for Welshpool at 9.30am. Tour leaders Andy & Mike Nicholls

SUN 13th February 2011 RUGELEY CIRCLE

Nice easy canal/river paddle in the winter sunshine (hopefully) grade 1 suitable for most paddlers meet at Blackroot at 9am for Rugeley at 10.00am.

SUN 27th February 2011 RIVER REA/ TEME

This tour for those who are moving on to harder water please ask about your fitness for this tour it will be limited to 12 people. We will run the river Rea if there is enough water but if it has not we will run the river Teme Ludlow to Ashford Carbonnel. Meet at Rushall at 8.15am for Cleobury Mortimer at 10am. Tour leader Andy Nicholls.

SUN 13th March 2011 RIVER TRENT, Wolseley Bridge 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 Wolseley bridge and touring down to Yoxall. Bring a packed lunch. Meet at Blackroot at 9am. Ring Tim for details

SUN 20th MARCH 2011 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 10th APRIL 2011 RIVER LUGG

Again this is a tour for those who are moving on to harder water please ask about 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 Rushall at 8 am. Ring Mike

SUN 8th MAY 2011 RIVER TAME /COVENTRY CANAL

Local easy touring circle from Peels Wharf to 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

SUN 22nd MAY 2011 RIVER SEVERN, IRON BRIDGE TO COALPORT

This is a tour for those who are competent paddlers and want to train for white water skills we will be starting at Dale End park and spending time on Jackfield rapids grade 1+ Meet at Rushall at 8.45am. Ring Mike

