



# Royal Sutton Coldfield Canoe Club

A Canoe England Affiliated Club

[suttoncanoe.org.uk](http://suttoncanoe.org.uk)



NEWSLETTER No 77

SPRING2013

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Well a lot of things have happened since the last newsletter. We are experimenting with this newsletter by sending it out by e mail which will save the club a significant amount of money firstly on printing but mostly on post as it costs in excess of £60 to post an edition. But don't worry if we don't have your e mail we will post one to you.

We have been very busy over the last few months especially after receiving the offer of Brownhills centre as a new base; it is explained in more detail in my report but I feel that it is an opportunity not to be missed. The weather hasn't got any better which has made things difficult organising touring trips you don't know from one day to the next how high the rivers are going to be.

Christmas has been a time for celebration in the club; we had a great day on the Christmas paddle with twenty five people on the water and thirty five for the meal. The party had to be moved with only ten days' notice as a building Regulations issue forced the closure of the social club at Rushall; fortunately we had some prior warning and so had made a plan "B"

Simon had handed in the Clubmark paperwork in November and so a very well timed E mail reached us on the afternoon before the party that we had passed and would be awarded the accreditation.

I would like to see you all at the AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan and remember if anyone feels that they would like to give some time to help run the club they will be made most welcome.

I will look forward to seeing you all at the club sessions in the new year.

Mike

## CLUB SESSIONS FOR SPRING 2013

### BLACKROOT POOL

**EVERY SATURDAY** 10.00am UNTIL 12.00pm ALL YEAR ROUND Resume on JAN 5<sup>th</sup>

**MONDAY EVENINGS** 6pm UNTIL 8 pm Starting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL

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### RUSHALL OPEN CLUB SESSIONS

**SATURDAY** 2-5pm (OR DUSK) ALL YEAR ROUND

Resume on JAN 5<sup>th</sup>

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS** 6pm UNTIL 8pm Starting on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL

### BARR BEACON SCHOOL POOL

**THURSDAY EVENING** 9 UNTIL 10PM

**EVERY WEEK FROM OCTOBER TO END OF MARCH**

(start back 10<sup>th</sup> January last night 28<sup>th</sup> March)

## River Severn – West Midlands Region Paddle 19<sup>th</sup> Aug 2012

A dedicated group of us ignored the grey skies and cold drizzle to join in with the BCU WM region Paddle.

We gathered at Hampton Loade (Mike is this the right place?) and launched onto the water. Paul tried a seal launch, and slid nose first into sticky mud! In good spirits, we looked at some basic river / moving water skills. Then we noticed a problem. Inflatable Steve was gently deflating! There was a puncture in his Servylar kayak. However, a couple of stops to re-inflate managed to keep him afloat to the end.

We stopped at Arley for lunch. Bearing in mind the wet weather, it was a great turn out for the regional event. I recognised some faces from last year's paddle.

The second half of the paddle passed quickly, delayed only by a huge water fight near Bewdley. Graham had taken an open boat with Megan and his Mum, but he came prepared (as ever!) with a huge water pistol. It didn't stop us trying to soak him as much as he soaked us. It was a new experience for some of our more recent members, but Sam G, Dave B and Dave H soon learned to fight back.

We ended with a bank side dispute with a fishing marshall who was eventually out argued and shown to be incorrect when he tried to stop us exiting the river via a bank used by a local fishing club. Ignoring this negative point, we had a great day and it was a nice trip for newer members to improve their paddling skills.

Sarah

## CLUB GEAR

**POLO SHIRTS £8.50**

**FLEECES £17.50**

**CHILDREN'S T SHIRTS £ 6.50**

**CAR WINDSCREEN STICKERS £1**

**RING MIKE ON 0121 360 2136**

ALL MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB QUALIFY FOR  
A 15 % DISCOUNT ON CANOEING EQUIPMENT  
FROM WEST MIDLAND CANOE CENTRE  
ON PRODUCTION OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD  
THEY HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WILL NEED  
JUST POP ALONG TO SNEYD WHARF  
401 SNEYD LANE, BLOXWICH WS3 2LT

**FOR SALE**

**DANCER CLUB KAYAK**

**£50**

**RING MIKE ON 01213602136**

**FOR SALE**

Pair of Thule roof bars 120cm long for car with roof rails

£25

ring 07709711260

Genuine Ford roof bars for Mondeo (to 2007)

£20

ring 0121 360 2136

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**FOR SALE**

**DISCOVERY 17/4 OPEN BOAT**

**£300 ONO**

**RING Mike on 0121 360 2136**

**BROWNHILLS CENTRE GRAND OPENING**  
**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL**  
**10pm UNTIL 4pm**

**THE TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF**  
**ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD CANOE CLUB**  
**TO BE HELD AT BROWNHILLS C.A.**  
**PELSALL ROAD, BROWNHILLS WS8 7JW**  
**FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30pm**

**AGENDA**

- 1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME
- 2 ATTENENDCE & APOLOGIES
- 3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
- 4 PRESENTATION & ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORTS
- 5 PRESENTATION & ADOPTION OF 2012 ACCOUNTS
- 6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS & GENERAL COMMITTEE

The officers of the club are elected for a term of two years staggered chair/treasurer, secretary/coach/vice chairman  
NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR 2013 ARE:-

Chairman Mike Nicholls

Vice Chairman: one year to run

Secretary: Adam Cooke (this is a one year appointment to maintain the staggered voting system)

TREASURER: Nicola Gledhill

COACH CO-ORDINATOR: one year to run

COMMITTEE: Dave Stanton, Sarah Witheridge, Adam Cooke, Lizzy Thompson, Richard Francis-Rowe, Alison Francis-Rowe, Andy Millross, Stuart Benson, Darren Parker, , Katie Francis-Rowe

- 7 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR: J Thom

- 8 RESOLUTIONS:

To approved updated constitution (deleting Rushall adding Brownhills)

To re-approve Honorary member, M Dowsett for next 5 years

- 10 FORUM DISCUSSION "Brownhills the future?"

**R.S.C.C.C. CHAIRMANS REPORT 2012**

The club entered the Olympic year almost back to normal after the many trials of 2011. A lot of hard work on the part of the management team was needed to change the way the club was run. At the AGM Simon stepped up to become the Vice Chair, he has proved his worth over the year not only as a valued help for me but as I was so pleased to announce at the Christmas Party he was the driving force behind us attaining Clubmark, this now will open doors for us we couldn't be approved by Birmingham Council until we had gained it. Alison & Richard took hold of the membership, re-structured it and steered it through its implementation phase, now it is running smoothly again. Sarah is our "River Queen" taking charge of many of the quiet tours; the two Andy's handling the white water. Even though some tours had to be cancelled at a late stage due to the exceptionally wet weather making the rivers too dangerous. Paul Ryder has used his exceptional organisational skills to re-structure coaching in the club; we now have a coaching team which is expanding and fully integrated to the new system (except for me!!) The Rob Leadley Memorial Shield this year went to Katie Francis-Rowe who has come on well during the year and is now our youth representative and hopes to become a cadet coach early next year.

Throughout the year the club has taken advantage of chances to present itself to the general public, the Olympic Torch, the Sutton Community Games, open days, Triathlon etc., my thanks go to all those who gave up their time to help out. We noticed a marked upsurge in the attendance figures after the Olympics these continued much later into the winter than we had experienced in the past. Blackrock weekend was once more a great success with over 50 people there despite the bad weather.

The club is approaching challenging times again, but this time it is for the better. In October we were approached to help out with the ailing Brownhills Canoe Centre which had been built about eight years ago by British Waterways, it had recently been closed due to lack of funds. Canoe England (West Midlands) Regional Development Team had stepped in to help save the centre and asked us if we could be the club in residence there. We just could not refuse! The changing facilities and the "on water" opportunities are far superior to Rushall. So we must, I feel say a sad farewell to Rushall and move to Brownhills in the New Year. The Move has meant a great deal of work for the Committee and for Simon and me especially, there is more logistical work to do but I know it will be worth it as the potential is there for us to thrive.

This a great club and it has an excellent team running it, my thanks go to them for all their hard work, there is always room for more committed people to help out so please get in touch and volunteer.

Mike

## Coaches Report

We currently have 12 active coaches supporting the club sessions at Blackroot Pool and Brownhills Canoe Centre as well as the River trips and Swimming bath sessions. We now have 2 young adults registered with Canoe England as BCU Cadets (Katie Francis-Rowe and Zoe Powers) who are taking their first steps to becoming a BCU Coach. I would like to thank all the coaches and bank support staff for their hard work and support throughout 2012.

(Active coaches must hold a minimum UKCC BCU Level 1 Award)

## 2012 Coaching Review

### Paddlepower Programme

Over 75 young (and not so young) members have successfully gained their *Paddlepower Start* award in 2012 and 4 have gained their *Paddlepower Passport* and 12 the *Paddlepower Discovery Award*.

### Star Awards



During 2012 12 members achieved their 1 Star Award.



7 Members achieved their 2 Star Award.

### Drop In Sessions

Over the course of 2012 the coaches ran several *Drop In Sessions* during the normal club session. These included 'Improving your forward paddling technique' and 'rescues' and covered some 2 Star syllabus. These sessions didn't prove very popular and from time to time we did not provide adequate coaching cover to successfully deliver the club or Drop in Sessions. We plan to re introduce these sessions in 2013.

## What's New For 2013

### Support for Coaches

We will be holding practice training session for coaches after the club sessions to keep skills up to date and develop Best Practices when running training sessions with the members.

A First Aid course has already been arranged for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (8hrs) and we intend to hold a Foundation, Safety, and Rescue Training (FSRT) course at Brownhills (April/May time).

Coaches meet up regularly to organise training sessions etc and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

### Paddlepower & Star Awards

We are in the process developing training courses for both Paddlepower and Star Awards commencing April/May 2013. If you are interested please contact one of the coaches.

### Drop In Sessions

As I mentioned earlier we will run these sessions but with more focus on just having fun and learning new skills like 'Gunnel Bobbing', Duck Racing, Slalom and Cross Stream Challenge.

### Club Sessions

We have produced a coaches rota for covering all club sessions to ensure members can enjoy paddling in a safe environment. Finally, if anyone is interested in becoming a coach or bank support for coaches, can you please get in touch.

## Membership Report 2012

As my first year as membership secretary, I feel 2012 has been a good year for club memberships. We've had the Olympics which has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and helped us maintain our numbers which currently stand at 145 fully paid up members. This breaks down to:

76 adult members (5 of which are honorary)  
27 youth members  
10 families (which make up 34 club members)  
4 student members  
4 affiliated clubs

To the end of 2012 we have taken:

£3035 in new memberships and renewals  
£1353 in day memberships

This amounts to a total of £4388

Unfortunately in 2012, we have had as many members leave as have joined, keeping our numbers relatively static. So hopefully, with the help of all the coaches and volunteers, we can make 2013 more fun and exciting, coaching more courses and finding new ways to keep you all enthralled, so that we can keep the members we already have

plus bringing in new members and making us a class leading club.

## **TOURING CALENDAR**

### **SPRING 2013**

**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. OR SEE FACEBOOK .**

**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 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013 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 Blackroot at 7.45am for Welshpool at 9.30am . Tour leaders Andy & Mike Nicholls  
0121 360 2136

#### **SUN 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2013. RIVER SOW/STAFFS & WORCS CANAL LOOP**

Nice easy paddle from Great Haywood up to St Thomas on the canal, then on the river Sow back down to Gt Haywood, grade 0 suitable for most people. Meet at Brownhills at 9am. Ring Sarah On 0791944677

#### **SUN 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2013 RIVER TEME (subject to water level)**

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  
Ring Mike 0121 360 2136

#### **SUN 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2013 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 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 Bridge, Sudbury at 10am. Ring Sarah or  
Mike

#### **SUN 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013 RIVER SEVERN ARLEY TO BEWDLEY**

A nice 5 mile paddle incorporating Eyemore rapids at which we can stay for a while and play. Meet at Blackroot at 8.15 for Arley at 10am .

#### **SUN 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013 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 Blackroot at 8 am.

#### **SUN 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013 RIVER SEVERN, IRON BRIDGE TO COALPORT**

**This is a tour for those who have attained a good measure of skill, we will be starting at Dale End park and going through Jackfield rapids grade 1+ Meet at Blackroot at 9am.**

## **BLACKROOT & BROWNHILLS OPEN DAYS**

Dates are tba please see facebook web site for info

We are providing canoeing for the Pelsall Boat Rally on the weekend of June 15/16<sup>th</sup> please see Mike or Simon to offer to help out