

PaddlePlus

Newsletter August 2008



Wye Camp

With 90 people taking part in this years camp it was the largest ever. The Saturday paddle from Hoarwithy saw 66 paddlers on the swollen, fast flowing river (the water level was up over two feet on normal summer levels). Sunday put the 'Plus' into the activities with the choice of two river trips, caving, walking and a play boat visit to Simonds Yat. The longer paddle from Kerne Bridge to Monmouth was the same as the 14.2m final day of the 100m Canoe Test due to take place next May. Monday was the upstream trip from Even Pits back to the camp site.

After the poor weather of the preceding weeks, the weekend was much better than could have been hoped for and although the flow on the river prohibited swimming and messing about by the camping field it made the paddling easier!

The social life of the camp was enhanced by the arrival of Vivian (Anton's pig) which was roasted over coals on Saturday evening to many jibes about how long it was taking - the end result was

enjoyed by those who waited up long enough. Joking aside, for such a large group to enjoy the weekend together is a tribute to all those who were there.

Some ideas for improvements have already been made and will help to build on the success in coming years (see over).

Club AGM

The Club AGM will take place on Tuesday 23rd September. This will be an opportunity to reflect on the years activities and plan ahead. We will need to look at our Top Club Action Plan and review progress.

The election of club officers will also take place and nominations are invited from all members.

Light refreshments will be available and all club members are encouraged to attend. 7 for a 7.30pm start.

A brief discussion about PPP's (Personal Paddling Plans) will follow the meeting and member's ideas and suggestions will be sought.

Paddle Sports Day

The LOPC are holding a mini sports day on 30th August teams of 5's will have a go at water polo, slalom, Sprints, rescues and relays.

This is a fun introduction to the Olympic disciplines and other completions that are part of paddlesport. Everyone (juniors and grown ups) are welcome, preferably in a team of 5 although teams could be made up on the day. From 10am to 5pm. there is a small charge for entry and prizes. All boats will be supplied.

Coracle Building Weekend

Kevin Grimley will be leading a group building their own Coracles at The Boat House in Barrow over the weekend of 20th and 21st September. Spaces are limited for what promises to be an enjoyable course, camping overnight is available and at the end you get to take home your coracle.

The cost, including all materials, is £190 to book a place contact Stuart Malcolmson 07830 254 192 or email stu@inspire-outdoors.co.uk

Bala Bunkhouse October '08

This trip which is just over a month away has proved to be very popular with only 2 or 3 places left. If you are interested and your name is not yet on the list - be quick!



Wye Camp ideas

It would be great to get feedback from members about possible improvements, additions or changes to the format of the weekend.

Keeping the **evenings** sociable has been difficult as numbers have grown and the weather has not always been warm enough to sit outside. Last year we took the tank tent which was large but very dark and uninviting, this year we took patrol tents and a gazebo which were too small. The thought for next year is to ask Oadby CYP to borrow their mess tent that is used on the 100m (about 16' by 30').

Offering a choice of 'arenas' in the evening may also help - the mess tent as a family area and a BBQ/fire for the pyromaniacs and drinkers.

An evening game of bingo is already in the planning stages for the family tent - what else could be offered?

Julie mentioned Adam's evening walks and **star gazing**, do we have someone willing to have a go at that or something similar?

Karl has made two suggestions, the first is a **Le Mans style race** one evening with swimming to the boats on the beach opposite the site (lower water level required!) then paddling to the bridge and back.

The second suggestion has been mooted before in different forms but is now to convert a cheap caravan into a **shower block** (3 electric showers run on a generator). Karl is willing to progress this idea if it meets with approval and a car can be found to tow it down.

The club having its own **transport** was again a subject of conversation. The running costs could possibly be met by allowing the Centre to use it for the after school pick-ups. There is certainly an argument for having a minibus available for club nights to broaden the paddling options - one for the AGM?

Alternatively, hiring a minibus in Ross to supplement the two taken down may be an option. On from that is the **fees charged** for the weekend, at present people without their own boats cover the cost of the vans, trailers & shuttles. It may be fairer to charge every paddler for transporting them and their boat to or from a trip.

Thank you

I would like to thank the following for giving that **bit extra** to make the weekend such a success Likko for his continued support and hard work to get everything there and back, Adam for the caving, Richard & Derek for breaking camp and unloading the trailers on Tuesday (along with the minibus crews), Simmo for organising group meals & breakfast, Phil for towing a trailer, Anton for the hog roast, Tracy for teas and transport and all the coaches for the water supervision.

Externally we are very lucky to have the support of Colin Broadway who allowed us to use boats and trailers, Clubs for Young People for the minibuses, LOPC for kit and trailer.

Three years on

I know many Wye campers wandered down the field to the tree with paddle fixed to it.

Although this was the third Wye camp without Adam Brewster, for those who knew him the memories of paddling with him will have been there over the weekend.

The true memorial to the 'beard' is not the plaque on the tree but the camp that takes place around it once a year.

LOPC Users Meeting & AGM

Wednesday 1st October 7pm.

This is an important forum for the Centre users and clubs to meet with the Trustees to review progress and hear about plans for the coming year.

Our Partnership with the Centre provides the club with an excellent base to operate from.

Any club member is welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting. Sean O'Brien was a Trustee until his recent move to Oxford, if anyone else from the club would like to consider supporting the Centre as a Trustee please speak to Andy or Mark Youd (Centre Manager) for more details.