



The CASTLE Summer 2008
www.castlecanooclub.co.uk

Paddle Clinics

Free for all Club Members! Come along and improve your skills and confidence!

Tuesdays from 6.30pm till 8pm

26th Aug Polo
2nd Sept Safety and Rescue Techniques

Sundays from 10.30am till 1pm

10th Aug 1 to 3 star skills kayak
17th Aug Support Strokes and Rolling canoe and kayak
24th Aug Basic Playboating canoe and kayak
31st Aug Safety and Rescue Techniques
7th Sept Open Session

From the editor

The Olympic Games will be finished by the time you read this. Fantastic results with medals in slalom and flatwater racing. Congratulations to Dave Florence and Tim Brabants.

Thanks to Karina for a great article describing how easy it is to organise a club day trip. Now there are no excuses for not organising your own trip, either on the Thames from Shadwell or further afield. There is life beyond the reservoir, and it's easy to do it!

There have been on-going problems with club members not arriving for their duty and the committee has devoted a lot of time to finding a solution. The duty rota is published in this newsletter, so please check. Club members NOT fulfilling their duty risk a loss of membership!

The next committee meeting is on 9th September, at the Brownswood Tavern at 8.00 pm. Please come along if you'd like to know more about how the club is run, or have ideas you'd like to contribute.

And hope to see heaps of people at the club BBQ, 7th September at 1.00 pm.

Jonathan Males

Club Summer BBQ

Sunday 7th September

Paddle games from 11 - 1 and a BBQ from 1.30 onwards to which family members can also come (i.e. under 18's).

Hot coals, bread, salad, sauces plus some soft and alcoholic drinks provided bring own main dish. Separate meat and vegetarian BBQ facilities.

Hiring Equipment from West Reservoir Centre

- Equipment can only be *booked* out on Tuesdays from 6 pm to 8 pm and Sundays from 10 am to 12 pm.
- *Collection and return* can be from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. However if you wish to take the equipment during the booking out session that would be permitted.
- Fees payable are £10 per day, however Friday to Monday is £20 and Monday to Monday is £50.
- These fees include 1 x boat,, 1 x B/ aid, 1 x cag, 1 x spraydeck, 1 x paddles, 1 x helmet. There are no reductions in fees for part or one item of kit.
- We will also require a deposit of £100 in the form of a returnable cheque.
- If the cost of replacement of repair is greater than £100 the Centre will endeavour to recover additional costs.
- Equipment will only be loaned out to Castle Canoe Club members (for their personal use) at the Centre's discretion and subject to availability.

Terry Kinsella Paddlesports Manager, West Reservoir Centre

***Need to buy your own canoeing gear?
Talk to a committee member about a range of discounts that are
available to club members***

Daytripper Karina Townsend

Many of us who paddle regularly at the Castle particularly enjoy the somewhat surreal seclusion of the West Reservoir and there are few who've not expressed surprise at its very existence on their first visit. Perhaps the fact that we have such a superb venue means that, as a club, we tend to organize less trips away. Nevertheless, over the past year we have run 3 highly successful and enjoyable day trips out on the Thames and there are plans afoot for further outings in the coming year. The Thames provides a very different, challenging paddle and a great chance to see London from a completely different perspective and being tidal, we can paddle it without any access issues.

I organized the second of these Thames trips and thought it worth giving you an overview of what was involved as it really wasn't hard. Unlike Regents Canoe Club trips which tend to be longer affairs with accommodation issues, a day trip from Castle poses less planning issues as you'll be home in time for tea.

A Castle day trip will probably involve the hire of Castle equipment and often, booking one of the center's instructors to accompany your group. Clearly this means that one of your first tasks in planning any day trip is to liaise with West Reservoir staff regarding proposed dates. On a tidal river such as the Thames their experience will be vital as anyone who's tried to paddle against it will confirm. To date, Andy Noakes has led us on two trips and Sam Saunders on the remaining one. They were both brilliant and ensured we took full advantage of our days on the river. We found that meeting at the West Reservoir center for 9.30am meant that we had just the right amount of time to get our equipment together before setting off for Shadwell basin on the Thames where we got on at a little beach.

The fee payable to the West Reservoir is £100 which covers the hire of all equipment and the fee to the instructor for up to 10 paddlers. £10 a head then for an ace day out. You do need to think about transport since the paddlers are responsible for transporting their boats so this is something you want to keep an eye on as places fill up.

The next thing to do is advertise the trip and the best way to achieve this is to email all the details to David Ellis who's responsible for the email newsletter davide@pirc.co.uk. Remember to stress that the trip is open to club members only. You should obviously give some instructions on clothing and food/drink for the day. A change of clothes is important – think of Sunday paddling the reservoir but for longer and with waves. It may well rain so a cag is probably going to be useful but so too could some sun screen. That's the charm of English weather after all. Sandwiches and flasks of coffee are not only tasty but provide a diver-

sion for bemused onlookers as your group disembark somewhere along the embankment for a well-earned picnic. You might even be lucky enough to seal launch from the Tate Modern after lunch. We did this in style wearing tinsel.

But crucial to your planning, because club members can't reply directly to emails from the castle canoe club email address, is to give your email address for them to contact you directly. You'll need to get their full contact details including their home address, email address, mobile number and emergency contact number and importantly, how many passengers and boats they are able to transport. Obviously it's preferable if you can get their fees in advance of the trip but this isn't always practical so it may have to be payment on the day.

Transport wise, with a set of uprights (available to borrow from the CCC cupboard) most cars should be able to transport 4 boats so you're hoping for a bare minimum of 3 cars/drivers to accommodate all the paddlers. Keep in touch with your West Reservoir contact (it's wise to swap mobile numbers) and email your paddlers giving them regular updates as your plans come together.

Finally, cross your fingers for decent weather, pack a waterproof camera and set the alarm for a bright and early start. Then enjoy doing something quite different as you paddle under Tower Bridge bringing abundant photo opportunities.

If you do want to organize a different trip my advice would be to consult www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk for up to the minute conditions and advice. For surf trips you might want to look at www.magicseaweed.co.uk as it might even be feasible to organize a day trip to Brighton .



Duty Rota

Here's the rota for the coming few months. If you can't make it, please contact Dave Ellis on 07940 452046 or e-mail Castleccduty@googlemail.com, or else arrange a substitute directly. If you don't attend as duty office and make no alternatives, the committee can suspend your membership. It's a straight forward job—but call or e-mail Dave if you have any questions.

Date	Duty Officer	Other events
August		
Sunday 10th	Phil Carlson	Trip to Symonds Yat
Tuesday 12th	Malcolm Fryer	
Sunday 17th	Lorraine Gamman	
Tuesday 19th	Jeremy Gay	
Sunday 24th	HOUVET, JENNIFER CLAIRE	Regent's Open Boat Weekend
Tuesday 26th	Colin Grant	
Sunday 31st	Ed Green	Regent's Beginners Weekend

September

Tuesday 2nd	HERBERT, ROSE-MARY	
Sunday 7th	HARVEY, MATTHEW	Clacton Sprint Triathlon - (Saturday)
Tuesday 9th	Dave Ellis	
Sunday 14th	HOXBY, NEIL	
Tuesday 16th	LANG, MICHAEL	
Sunday 21st	LETTICE, ROBIN	Regent's MEM weekend
Tuesday 23rd	LITTLEJOHN, ADAM	
Sunday 28th	MCFARLANE, BARBARA	
Tuesday 30th	MCNERN, RONAN	

October

Sunday 5th	KEMBERY, RICHARD	
Sunday 12th	MERCER, GARETH	
Sunday 19th	NEAME, ROBERT	
Sunday 26th	NIELSEN, MARIA	

Castle Canoe Club Committee Meeting

Held at the Brownswood Tavern on 8 July 2008

Present: Nick Fagerlund
Paul Wathan
Ian Tokelove
Mark Rowe
David Ellis
Lindsay Hough
Carmen Aitken
Mia Chambers – attended as a non Committee member

Apologies: Jonathan Males
Susan Webster

AGM Minutes

The following amendments to the AGM minutes were agreed:

- 1) Chairman's report to be amended to show that the Thames Trips were not subsidised by the club.
- 2) Trip officer's report to be amended. Barry Fitzgerald was reported as referring to the organisation of trips being a problem due to the number of Regents Canoe Club members being members of CCC also. There were approx 30 members who were members of RCC as well as CCC leaving plenty of other members to attend CCC trips.
- 3) Voting. Amendment to show that David Ellis' election as Safety Officer was seconded by Mark Rowe.
- 4) Constitution – 6.3 of the constitution will be amended to read

...“6.3. A member shall be deemed to have resigned from The Club if, after due notice in writing, they have not paid the annual subscription within 2 months of the due date. Any person who was a member in the previous year (whole or part) must pay full fees to rejoin in the next year, irrespective of the date of re-joining. Any deviation from this must be approved by the committee..”

Minutes of last meeting

Finance: PW advised Elaine was in India and not able to audit the accounts. Ralph Wilson has undertaken this instead. At year end the club had net assets worth £1200. Ralph has still to return the accounts to Paul. Accounts to be passed to Jonathan by PW for inclusion in the next news letter.

Officers Reports

Treasurer: Banked £3,085 in membership fees of which GLL will be due £1,982 in rent (ie 25/42th)

ie Net funds = £1,157

Expenditure

GLL Rent	£	80.00
Newsletter	£	20.13
AGM Food & Dinner	£	49.76
Total	£	149.89

Information Officer:

No Report

Social:

No Report – but will organise a BBQ soon taking account of trips, training and weddings!

Safety:

People have not been turning up for duty. This is becoming a problem and many thanks to Paul for standing in on so many occasions.

A number of suggestions were made including paying GLL staff however, this was rejected based on cost. Proposal to pay people to do duty was rejected.

The following was agreed (although I Tokelove did not agree)

Castle Canoe Club – Duty Officer SOP

The duty list is to be prepared on a rolling 3 month basis.

Every two weeks the Safety Co-ordinator will send out a new list to all members.

At the same time a copy of the new list will be placed on the club notice board and on the web page.

At the same time the Safety Co-ordinator will send each person who is on duty in the coming month an individual e-mail confirming the date they will be on duty.

The e-mail will make it clear that all members have a responsibility to cover duty and that it is their responsibility to find a replacement if they are unable to do the date (this is already made clear on the membership form).

Once the duty is confirmed the Safety Co-ordinator will not contact the person again until the week before they are due to do duty.

The Safety Co-ordinator will chase on a Wednesday morning for the Sunday and Thursday night for the following Tuesday, via e-mail and text message reconfirming the duty date. (The aim here is to give the Safety Co-ordinator the ability to send around a general e-mail asking for emergency cover, if the person bails).

If a person does not fulfil their duty slot and has made no efforts to arrange cover then the committee reserves the right under section 6.2 of the Handbook to suspend the member for a period to be decided upon by the committee (it was suggested between 3-6 months).

It was also agreed that this decision would be communicated to all members via e-mail by Lindsay as soon as possible.

Mia Chambers suggested that some members were apprehensive about doing duty as they had little idea about what it involved. The Safety Officer will review the SOP on the web page and offered to run sessions for new members.

Changes to duty officer times were discussed:

The Duty Officer must be available to meet new members between 10am to 12 noon on Sundays and 6pm to 7pm on Tuesdays.

The Duty officer can paddle outside these times but must stay within the pontoon area and inform a member of GLL staff that they are on the water and place the duty officer on water sign on the desk.

Membership:

Lindsay confirmed she had contacted members who had not renewed but paddled since the new membership year had begun. These people have not attended the club since.

Club Signage – will obtain revised quote for 2 signs by end July at latest and will e-mail the Committee with the cost.

PW commented LH has done a very good job of sending e-mails but should she be doing it? LH advised all members of the Committee could send e-mails via power web – details to be circulated by LH.

Communications:

Carmen to circulate list of frequently asked questions by 21st July 2008.

News letter:

Though not present Jonathon requires contributions by the end of July.

Chair:

Will get back to Terry regarding 10 paddle clinics with a view to start at the end of July and proposes:

5 Sunday clinics & 5 Tuesday clinics.

Chair will e-mail committee regarding progress.

Terry raised concerns about how the club was being run and thought that GLL may take over the running of club. Consensus of opinion was let him run club if he wants to. It will become like a gym where people join for a couple of weeks then move on.

Service level agreement – chair to e-mail to all committee members ready for next meeting, it will be main agenda item at next meeting.

Claire Taylor also to receive a copy as she was involved in setting it up. [I have no note of Claire being asked to attend the meeting to talk about this but think it is sensible that she does.]

AOB

Agreed that action had been taken in terms of cleaning up the pontoon regarding goose/swan droppings.

Chair to raise issue of pond weed with Terry with a view to dragging the reservoir.

GLL advise 21 bungs replaced on Kayaks and requested greater care is taken with this equipment.

Parking issue to be raised with Terry as the car park is not being managed.

Lockers – not all work and some take money without locking. Chair to raise with Terry.

Paul advised he is organising a trip to Symonds Yat 8 to 10 August – suitable for all, to be advertised by the club (CA to distribute details).

Meet the Committee:

Nick Fagerlund; Chair

Stepping into big shoes, the man from down under looks set to lead the club to new heights (depths?) in the coming year. A photo is promised for the next newsletter!

nickfagerlund@hotmail.com

Paul Wathan: Treasurer

Responsibility for all matters financial and looks after the Club's accounts i.e. paying in membership fees, paying out all items of expenditure e.g. rent to West Reservoir Centre, BCU affiliation fee, equipment purchases and all other expenses related to the running of the Club. And prepare final end of year accounts and balance sheet for approval at the AGM. Paul.Wathan@Camden.gov.uk



Susan Webster: Secretary

As club secretary it's my responsibility to take minutes at our meetings and sort any post for the club, as well as responding to general inquiries. Sucatweb@hotmail.com

Mark Rowe: Social Events Motivated by the success of the summer BBQ Mark has an outlandish plan for more social events. Not sure how this role fell to me apart from the fact that in a semi alcoholic state I found my hand going up and someone seconding me at the AGM. This surprised me as for the last couple of years I have played the role of a grumpy old man. However not one to shirk a new challenge I have found that I'm quite excited about the role and have in fact become quite a jolly fellow. If you have any ideas please let me know. For taking the credit I will happily organise something of your choice within reason. Mark.Rowe@islington.gov.uk

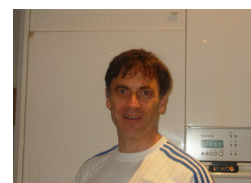


Lindsay Hough: Membership Secretary My role consists of updating an ever growing spreadsheet with all the information provided on the membership forms by all renewing / new members, ensuring all membership monies get handed to the treasurer and updating the website database ensuring all members receive club news and updates. In addition I keep an attendance record of all members and visitors to the club to ensure all those persons using the club are paid up members. This information is then distributed to the Duty Officer to assist in planning the duty rota. Castlecmembership@yahoo.co.uk

David Ellis: Safety Officer: My role is about making sure we are all aware of the problems we could encounter when we are kayaking. It ranges from the obvious – setting the duty rota and e-mailing people to confirm that people will turn up, to the more detailed - ensuring that the emergency contact list is up to date just in case there is an accident at the reservoir or on a trip. Its also about talking to the staff at WR and passing on useful information – like we are closed due to blue green algae and explaining what it is. If you think we are missing a safety issue or want to know more e-mail me and I will try to sort it out. Castleccduty@googlemail.com



Ian Tokelove: Communication: Updating the website, message board and communication. ian@foodcomm.org.uk



Jonathan Males; Newsletter Editor

Self explanatory role which largely involves hassling people and battling with out of date desk top publishing software. Contributions welcome! Jonathan.males@btconnect.com

Communications sub-committee

General enquiries: Carmen Aitken
info@castlecanooclub.org

Trip organiser

TBC