



September Newsletter

Dates for Your Diary

29th September **Torchlight paddle** Meet 6pm at Errwood. Bring a torch and a stove and mug if you fancy joining us for a brew.

1st October **Desperate Measures Demo Day** and Visit from John Handyside National Racing Development Coach for the BCU to give some coaching on sprint racing and forward paddling. Paddling Starts at 12pm.
BBQ and Bring and Buy Sale of Paddling & Outdoor Gear also taking place

13th October Pool sessions begin at Buxton Pool 9-10pm.

Sunday 16th October **Mersey Descent** - a 9 mile paddle on the Mersey from Burnage Rugby Club to Trafford Metrovik Rugby Club. There are racing classes or you can simply aim to complete the tour. Full safety cover is provided. See notices or www.madcc.co.uk for more details.

Sunday 16th October **Stone Slalom** - a division 3/4 event ideal for novices. Held on the River Trent at Stafford and Stone Canoe Club. See www.staffordandstonecc.co.uk for more details.

A Short Message from our Chairman

Well, it's been a great summer and it has been good to see so many new, and old (sorry - I mean long-standing!) members down and well done to those who succeeded in passing their 1* test!

I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped out over the summer; all the coaches, especially Dani and Paul; Simon for organising

the coached session and everyone else who has been 'duty' at Errwood, helped out with kit or in any other way.

There will be more news about winter activities soon but so far we have Buxton Pool booked from 13th October up until Christmas on Thursdays from 9-10pm. We may also use Errwood or Buxton Pool on Saturday afternoons to make sessions more accessible to families. Feel free to email me with suggestions of what you'd like to do on rushworths@talktalk.net.

1* Success

Back in early July 12 paddlers began the journey towards their 1* certificate and club competence for Errwood Reservoir. Unfortunately holidays meant that not everyone was able to complete the full course and be assessed. However, after much hard work and hopefully a fair amount of fun too seven paddlers passed with flying colours and a further 3 are waiting for another opportunity for assessment. **Congratulations to Vernon, Ben, Joe, Toria, Dan, Tom and Annie and many thanks to Clive for being their very thorough assessor.** We look forward to seeing you on the water, Dani & Paul.



Messing About on the Mersey

The first Saturday in September saw 16 boats and slightly more paddlers at the start of the Mersey canoe trail in Stockport. This was an ideal opportunity for some of the more novice paddlers to experience their first river trip but we were also joined by more experienced members to make this a great social outing and a chance for all members to get to know each other a little better. The seven mile stretch we were to paddle is made up of flat stretches punctuated by a variety of rubble weirs and one sloping weir just past half way at Northenden. Whilst we were all launching paddlers were able to have a paddle around and an attempt at paddling upstream against an obvious flow. It also gave us the opportunity to get used to the most obvious hazard on the river today - debris and shallows, many of us managed to run aground. Once we were all afloat we set off trying to stay together as a group as far as possible. The first bridge provided another challenge. Which line was best? The middle arch proved just a tad too shallow for most. About two miles down river we stopped for lunch on a convenient beach with a small chute, this allowed us to practice a bit of breaking in and breaking out as well as to simply enjoy running the chute. Lunch provided an opportunity for a leg stretch and for the local dogs to sample both our sandwiches and our boats. One dog found someone's sandwiches so tasty that they came back a second time to try and steal them!



Alan running the weir

The journey then continued down to Northenden where a sloping weir provides the big feature on the river. In certain flow conditions this is runnable and today with flow being on the low side of normal we were able to shoot the weir. Judging by the smiles on faces this was the highlight for most people and we all got safely down with no swimming or capsizing. Some of the kayaks were also able to go back into the wave at the bottom of the weir to attempt to surf on it. The journey then continued on down through Chorlton Water Park and down some interesting rubble weirs before reaching our get out at Jackson's Boat Pub on the edge of Trafford Water Park. This was a welcome sight and we were able to enjoy a refreshing drink whilst sorting kit and securing boats ready for the journey home. Thanks to everyone who came, you made it a very enjoyable day out.



Sue running the weir.

Wye Paddle

10 of us (Stu, Lisa, Jean, Mick, JB, Mark, Sue, Daz, Jan, Alan) camped at Symonds Yat West. On Saturday we put in at Ross on Wye and paddled to Symonds Yat, and on Sunday from Symonds Yat to Monmouth. The weather was really nice over the weekend, although the strong winds made paddling quite hard at times. The route winds through wooded gorges and has quite a wild feel to it... particularly below the rapids at Symonds Yat. Everyone shot the Symonds Yat rapids without mishap, although we did rescue a couple of open boaters who capsized. Everyone had a really great time... thanks to Jean & Stu for organising it.



Getting ready for the off.



Jean enjoying the sunshine!

Have you been on any interesting trips or journeys recently that you would like to share with your fellow club members? Or is there something you would like to see included in future editions of a newsletter? If so speak to Dani on a Thursday evening or send her an email at martindani@hotmail.com