



Wey Kayak Club Newsletter

www.weykayak.co.uk

November 2006

Chairman's Chat

As we approach the end of the year, we can reflect on another successful season at the Club. Once again our

coaching staff have provided a solid background to all our activities, and we thank them for this. As a club with BCU 'Top Club', and Sport England 'Club Mark' status, the canoeing world recognises the high standard of coaching and club structure that exist at Wey.



You will have seen that the Gym and boathouse wing, (Phase 2 of the project) is now taking shape. The main works are due for completion in November. Also, before Christmas we should have in place much of the outside works, (Phase 3). There will be a bit of disruption while this is taking place, so please be careful, especially with driving. Park at the front. Also we will have to use the front door for a time, while the rear access is completed. Please keep dirt and wet in the lounge area, to a minimum.

The New Gym will be fitted out before Christmas, if all goes well. So winter training will make use of it as soon as possible. This will be a really great facility, and I am sure that you will be very surprised at the quality and quantity of the equipment that we will install. A big vote of thanks goes to Paul Dimmock for all his efforts, and Brunel University for the equipment. When all is ready, we will be introducing a personal induction session to EVERYBODY on the safe use of the Gym and the equipment. Until you have been 'signed up' you



cannot use it. Of course, this is not the Wey Kayak Club's Gym. It is for all the Centre users, and a programme of use will be put in place. In particular, the MSTG will be allocated special times for their exclusive use.

You may be approached by outsiders to use the Gym, when they realise we have such an excellent facility. It has been agreed that all Gym users must be a member of the Centre Clubs, i.e. WKC, BSCA or MSTG. So if you have somebody who wants to use the Gym, then they must join the Club as a full member.

You will have seen on the Notice Board that we are well below our target on the Jim's Gym Appeal. There is still time to get out there and



get the sponsorship or rewards for carrying out some tasks. Lets see if we can make the £10,000 before the end of the year. More forms are available if you have lost yours.

With winter training well under way, please be aware that at this time of year, conditions on the river can be difficult. Do not forget that Juniors can only paddle if they are under a coach's control, and should never go on the water alone, especially in difficult conditions.

The AGM is set for March 8 2007 at 20.00. Please note in your diaries.

At the AGM we will of course be presenting the Club Trophies. Will all the winners from last year please return these to Jim or leave with Peter Morley by the Hare and Hounds on January 14, so we can get them engraved.

The 2007 Membership Form is attached. With the much larger facilities available, and the running costs involved, we are paying an increased amount to the GWC. This has been reflected in the reasonable increases we have made to the fees. I am sure that you will agree that the club offers very good value for money. Do not forget that the club pays for your Wey Navigation river license in the fee we pay to the BCU. It also pays for the Youth section registration, so that all junior beginners are covered by the BCU insurance, without having to pay an individual membership fee. We do also have to pay a fee for all non-BCU senior members, so that they are covered by the BCU Third Party insurance. This sum has been added to the Fees. Please remember, if you have not paid this small extra amount, and you have any problem while canoeing, or are on Club activities, you will not be covered by the BCU insurance. Will **ALL** Juniors please get their parents or guardians to complete the back of the Membership form. This is a condition of membership.

Many of our new members will have taken out membership of the Club during 2006, and paid a full year's fees from the month when you joined. To bring you in line with the Club's year to the end of 2007, you will only be asked to pay a balance of the 2007 fees. Those who fit into this group, should have an additional form with this newsletter. Please complete this form and return with the Membership form and the appropriate reduced fees.

You will remember that the Club has introduced a new Life Membership and a 5 Year Membership. This will enable us to have some additional funds now, to put into the new building. We are very pleased that some of our members have indicated that they will take out these memberships.

The coaches have decided to continue with the more formal approach for those coming to the club for the first time. We have set up a programme of 4 weeks initial training, with small targets of achievement, on a structured basis. This will allow more helpers to fit in on the day. **Would all juniors please make sure that your parents read this newsletter, so that they know what is happening at the Club.**

Do not forget the Boxing Day paddle up to the Parrot at Shalford. Meet at the Club at 10.30 for an 11.00 departure.



The Commodore, and all the Committee, hopes you have an enjoyable time over Christmas, and the New Year, and we look forward to good paddling, and a great facility in 2007. They hope to see you at the Club Commodore's Dinner on 9th December.

Jim Rossiter

The Coaching Development Plan

The coaching development plan was established to enhance the skills and commitment of those involved in developing youngsters from beginners through to elite athletes. Wey Kayak Club has an enviable track record of producing high quality athletes over many decades. Inevitably a sport like canoeing (a predominantly individual sport) allows for individuals to train and develop by themselves. The coaching development plan has been set up to allow individuals to do their own thing if that's their choice, but importantly, provide a development continuum through organised groups allowing a youngster to progress as far as their ability and aspiration allows them to go - the club will then never be in a position to stifle a youngster's potential. Of course some youngsters may not wish to progress through to the top of the sport and work at a level and in a group that they are more comfortable with. The system accommodates for this. Individuals may want to get involved with other aspects such as instructing, coaching or management of the sport and it is believed that the coaching development plan will accommodate that.

In essence the plan is about doing what we have always done, but doing it smarter and supporting one another to allow youngsters become the elite athletes of tomorrow and when they stand up on the rostrum to receive their Olympic or World Championship medal, we will all be able to share a bit of credit for their progression to excellence!

Peter Morley and Cathy West, as part time community club coaches, are our links with local schools and youth groups. They, along with Mick Luck and a team of highly committed volunteers, can get the youngsters and many older newcomers in the boat and taking the first strokes of efficient paddling and competency on the water.

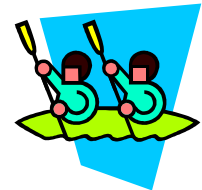
Alan Burton works at developing that skill and honing in on more effective competitive race paddling and key training principles. Then they may progress on to Sarah Hannon, Mike Childerstone and Dave Howie, experiencing regular training programmes and working to fine tune paddling technique. They develop the athletes to work at a higher capacity and those that want to progress still further, can fit into a programme for Juniors to compete at International level. This group will join in the Senior training sessions providing an excellent base for Juniors to develop and prepare for International competition. Mark Hoile also has a group of paddlers, identified through the Talent Identification programme, that merge into the development programme.

The range of paddling sessions, times and days available for paddlers is huge and enable a wider spectrum of abilities to paddle at a level they wish to, than ever before in the club's history.

Paul Dimmock

At present it is not unusual to find K2's lacking various essential fitments, damage that has not been reported and in some circumstances evidence of misuse.

From now on each Club K2 will be assigned a specific club member who shall remain responsible for the boats maintenance and allocation.



A list of all the Club K2's along with the club member to whom they are assigned and a contact number of that member will in due course appear on the Club Notice Board.

We will be introducing some restrictions on use of the Club's better Sprint and Marathon K2's. This is not designed in anyway to be elitist, however in order to ensure that the best boats remain in good condition, use will be restricted to the paddlers of Division 3/4 ability and above. The boats in question will be indicated on the Notice Board.

Sarah Hannon will still remain responsible for the allocation of K2's for Sprint Regattas and Marathon Races in the same manner that has been operating for the last year.

The Club Member assigned to respective K2's will initially be required to ensure that the boat is in a fully repaired and fully fitted out condition. Any repairs or new fitments required at the outset should be reported to Alan Burton, and new fittings will be sourced and repairs undertaken. Thereafter the assigned person will be responsible for checking the boat on at least a weekly basis, and following its return from regattas and races to ensure that no fittings have go missing and that any damage is reported and rectified.

We want to ensure that no fittings are removed or swapped around from any boat, without the 2 assigned people nowing about it. If you use a boat, it must be returned, in the same condition.

When using any of the K2's which have boat bags, paddlers are requested to empty and dry the boats after use and replace the boats in their allocated bags to ensure that they are protected as much as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Congratulations!

Rachel Cawthorn. Winner of the Jones Cup 2006. Junior Racing Canoeist of the Year, as voted by the Junior Olympic Racing Squad!



K2'S - THE FUTURE

The Club Committee and Coaches Forum have decided to implement new arrangements for the allocation, use and maintenance of the Club's K2's to ensure that they are maintained in a better condition for racing and training in the future.



Reports & Results

2006 BCU Inter-Club Regatta Won By Wey Kayak Club! The September Regatta that ended the year's racing programme was no textbook flat-water racing event, either the running of it or racing in it, but what a brilliant result for this club. The photos used on this year's regatta programmes show the warm sunshine we enjoyed last September which contrast with the appalling conditions experienced this year (incidentally, has anyone got any good photos for next year's covers as we need five new photos). Good planning and teamwork is the key to winning, not forgetting the work of the unsung heroes who played their part as well.

Our team of motorboat crews at this event made numerous rescues and were ably assisted by the Hungarians (with the boat used to look after the new starting gates), who quietly helped with canoes/kayaks that unfortunately capsized!

Sadly, my big opportunity in the club masters K4 1000m race was cancelled late on Saturday afternoon, along with another 43 races, owing to the inclement weather we experienced that day. This could explain why I'm not in the team photo – there's always next year!

Around coffee-time on Sunday the weather was making it impossible to run 500m races, and the decision was taken to suspend racing. Following a team leaders meeting, we decided to change the races from 500m to 200m thus allowed the racing to continue for the rest of timetable. Fortunately at this point Wey were so far ahead we could not loose!
Peter Morley.



Marathon Success for "Wey"

The breadth of talent in the club continues to develop across the disciplines with many of the competitive club members not only showing strong performances in the sprints, but also in marathon events.

In mid August, the **National Marathon Championships 2006** were held at Reading Canoe Club. The weather was mostly cool and wet, but this didn't dampen the performances of our age group and divisional paddlers. Predictably competition was fierce in the senior events with dramatic portages keeping spectators entertained!

The juniors enjoyed many podium places adding to the points gained for their club and contributing to the final result of Wey finishing 3rd overall and the Presentation Plate.
For full results see [Link to Reading CC.](#)

The Hasler Trophy is the National Team Championships with only the top four scoring clubs from each region eligible to compete. This means therefore, that entrance to the final is gained through paddlers' commitment throughout the season.

The **Hasler Final 2006** was held on 17th September at Bedford. Racing held mixed fortunes for the Wey team with the first starts being the lower divisions with large numbers of paddlers vying for a good early position. The congested circuit course, sheer numbers and steep banks caused very turbulent waters and a number of Juniors struggled to keep their forward positions. In spite of this, points were gained and the afternoon saw Divisions 6 upwards in action. Some good results here ensured that, once again Wey were prize winners in national competition, securing 3rd place and another Presentation Plate!

Elmbridge Marathon

On a rather wet Sunday morning we went to the Club to get the boat I was racing out of its

shed (thanks Allan for lending it to me and fixing it from last time I used it!), then we got on our way to Elmbridge. Fortunately it isn't very far away, so I got a bit more of a lie-in than I normally do before a race. Having been completely confused by the course-map, I got on the water having no idea where to go, which was a good start! With help from another paddler I got to the Start and things went well from there. I won Division 7 quite comfortably, getting a promotion to Division 6 (finally!).

Elsewhere, Wey Kayak Club excelled. We won just about every race of the morning; Charlie Welch won Division 9, Phoebe Ayres won Division 8, both in K1, and Jack Childerstone and Mike Lambert won Division 7/8 K2. In Division 9, both racing in their first "away" marathon, Alex Sokolov and George Krasovitskiy finished 5th and 7th respectively.

About 10 minutes after coming off the water the heavens opened, so out came the umbrellas. After receiving our rather fetching T-shirts in the presentation, we went to watch the starts of the afternoon races, but decided to leave before they finished as the rain was rather heavy and a thunderstorm ensued. However, I have seen from the results (on the Elmbridge website) that Wey again performed very well, so all in all it was a very good day for the Club. Well done everyone!
James Cordery



Pangbourne Marathon
On the 8th October 2006 many Wey paddlers attended Pangbourne marathon: we all came home with some great results.

I was racing K2 with my Dad Robin, against Dean and Sam in one K2 and Mark and Hazel in another. An Army K2 took the lead, followed by the Wey crews quite far behind. At the first portage Robin and I managed to drop the others and started to catch up with the lead boat. It was a long hard race but we managed to finish in 2nd place followed by Hazel and Mark and then Dean and Sam coming 4th. Overall it was a very successful and exciting race.

Phoebe Ayers

Wey had good results in the K1 events here too:
Div.2 Rob Williams 1st:
Div.4 Andy Nicholson 3rd: Div.5 Michael Lambert 2nd and Paul Yates 3rd.

WINDSOR MARATHON

THE WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE GOOD AND THE CURRENT WASN'T STRONG SO IT WAS SET TO BE A GOOD RACE FOR ME AND VIKI. WE WENT OVER THE COURSE MAP FOR DIV 7/8 K2 AGAIN BEFORE SETTING OFF. WE DID A FEW LAPS WARM UP BEFORE LINING UP FOR THE START WITH THE OTHER 17 BOATS. "NUMBER 714 GET BACK ON THE START LINE.....READY GO!" WE GOT A GOOD START AND GOT AT THE FRONT ON A WASH. WE WENT STRAIGHT UP THE RIVER FOR ABOUT 2KM THEN ROUND A BUOY AND BACK DOWN AGAIN, WE THEN HAD TO SQUEEZE ROUND THE BACK WATER BEFORE FINISHING. IN ALL, THE COURSE WAS ONLY ABOUT 6.5KM (4 MILES). WE FINISHED IN 4TH PLACE.



PAUL YATES HAD JUST BEEN PROMOTED TO DIV 5 AND THIS WAS HIS FIRST RACE, BUT HE CAME 1ST

AND IS NOW IN DIV 4. JAMES CORDERY WAS ALSO PADDLING IN DIV 6 FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE DID BRILLIANTLY TO COME 2ND GETTING PROMOTED TO DIV 5. IN DIV 8 WE HAD CHARLOTTE THOMAS AND CHARLIE WELCH. CHARLOTTE CAME A FANTASTIC 3RD WITH CHARLIE COMING A VERY CLOSE 4TH, BOTH GETTING PROMOTED TO DIV 7. ANDY NICHOLSON DID A 3/4 K2 WITH HIS PARTNER PAUL BAKER COMING IN 3RD PLACE. SO ALL IN ALL I THINK EVERYONE HAD A GOOD RACE.

HAZEL CHILDERSTONE

Richmond Marathon

It was back to the Thames on 22nd October: the sort of Sunday to be indoors reading the Sunday papers! The rain, once started, was fairly persistent, but did not deter the paddlers who achieved some excellent placings across all Divisions.

The nature of this race lends itself to K2 competition, none the less in Div 4 K1, Andy Nicholson came 1st and Michael Lambert 2nd. K2 results: Div 7/8 Charlie Welch/Sam Driscoll 1st, Hazel Childerstone/Phoebe Ayers 3rd. Div. 5/6 Lauren Godsave/Andy Bonham 2nd.

Div 3/4 Dean Terry/Aaron Jordan (Maidstone)
1st, Robin Ayers/ Paul Yates 2nd. Div 1/2 Rob
Williams/Mark Childerstone 1st.



Mike & Joe giving it beans...before disaster struck! (Photo from Richmond website). Actually it was another crew that struck, but in spite of the early bath, Mike and Joe still managed 6th place in Div. 5/6.

Reading Sprint Training Camp

In the half term myself, Dean Terry and Matt Welch went to an under 16 training camp at Reading CC. We spent three nights at the Holiday Inn hotel. The camp was a good experience and all those who attended seemed to enjoy it; although unfortunately, Dean had some problems with his wrist, when he was "taken out" on a run!

As well as paddling sessions we did gym work and running. The most useful part of the camp was a videoed technique analysis session, which showed us all how we could improve.

The catering was done by volunteer mums, dads and members of Reading CC, and the food they prepared was really good.

Mark Childerstone

Hare and Hounds

The first race of the winter series of 10k time-trials took place on 29th

October. There was a good turnout and some competitive paddling. Paul Wycherley set a new record of 39:35 and very close behind was Robin Williams at 40:06.....(see website for full results).



For Sale

**Pogies- keep hands warm...£16.00 and
Wey Club Vests £12.00
(available from Pete)
Wey Spraydecks
(available from Chris Luck)**

International News

World Sprint Championships

Szeged, Hungary.

To go as a spectator to the World Championships is to get a real buzz out of a major kayaking event. To visit the World Championships in Hungary is to see a regatta on a scale unimaginable to anyone familiar with the national regattas in Nottingham.

Canoeing is almost a religion in Hungary, the paddlers are celebrities pursued by autograph hunters, and spectators turn up in their thousands (and pay good money for the privilege). To be in Szeged in August was an awesome experience. Never mind the 3km walk from the car park, never mind temperatures that nudged 40 degrees, an estimated 40,000 people turned up to watch the finals, and made sufficient noise, particularly when a Hungarian was racing, to match anything heard at Old Trafford or Stamford Bridge.

We so nearly had the best possible result for Britain too. In the final of the 1000m K1 our very own European champion, Tim Brabants, surged through to take a silver medal just a whisker behind the winner from Sweden. It was so close and Tim (Lane 3) would surely have been crowned World Champion, but for the shelter from the breeze offered by the grandstands to the Swede in Lane 9

Putting the icing on the cake for the GB team late on the last afternoon was the Ed'n'Ed K2 crew. Ex-Wey paddler Ed Cox and partner Ed McKeever achieved a fantastic 4th place in the 200m final, just outside the medals but a result they can be well pleased with.

Meanwhile Wey member Paul Wycherley ran his usual 1000m K2 with Pete Almasi and the pair started the week with a good result in their Heat. Unfortunately this was followed by a very indifferent showing in the Semi-Final, the duo finishing fifth and only just squeezing into the 'B' Final by the skin of their teeth.

The deeply disgruntled pair vowed to perform out of their skin in the Final. They did too! Headed by the Irish crew for the first 800m they timed their race to perfection and ran out clear winners – 10th in the world and in a time that would have placed them 5th in the 'A' Final. Oh, for what might have been!

Gordon Wycherley

World Marathon Championships

Tremolat, France

The 2006 Marathon World Championships took place in Tremolat in France this September. GB did well getting very good results across all the classes. From Wey, Roy Fieldus and Adrian Henson competed in the Masters K2 coming 6th. Also from Wey, Fay Lamph raced with her K2

partner Lizzie Broughton (Richmond) in the junior girls K2 coming 12th. It rained for most of the weekend but there were lots of supporters out there and the racing was exciting. The race was hard work but fun and good experience

Fay Lamph



MASTERS' WORLD CUP MARATHON

2006- Tremolat

The last time I had taken part in a Masters' World Cup Marathon Competition was at Stockton-on-Tees in 2001 where I had competed in the Over-55 K1 and the Over-45 K2. I decided then that, although an interesting experience, I would not compete again until I could take part in the 60-64 age group category. I had been eligible in 2005, however, as the 2005 World Cup event was in Australia, I would not have been able to attend. As the venue for the 2006 Master' World Cup was on the Dordogne river at Tremolat in France, I had been toying with the idea of taking part so readily agreed to partner Tony Nolan from Worcester when he approached me at the 2005 National Marathon Championships. Although Tony wanted to concentrate on the K2 at the Master's, I decided that my priority would be the K1 which was the first event and the K2 would be a bonus.

The Dordogne is a big, wide river and gives the impression of a long lake. It is quite unlike any river in the UK. Tremolat is located close to the northern tip of a large meander loop. The Master's course for all age groups was 21.5 km with 2 long laps of 7.5 km including a portage and a finish lap without the portage of 6.5km. The current on the river was deceptively strong and caused problems at the start. Many boats were at 45 degrees to the start when the "Go" was given!

I started my K1 race well out to the right in the middle of the river and by the first bridge after 750m, I calculated that I was in 7th or 8th place. By now I had caught the wash of a Cz paddler coming

through from a poor start and managed to stay on his wash until he caught up the group of two in front. One of these dropped away, but I was unable to stay with the wash and was left by myself in 7th place. On the second lap I caught up with a Finn who claimed to be in the 65-69 age group. As we were not directly competing we agreed to help each other to catch the Spanish paddler 200m ahead of us and shared the lead. I dropped him at the second portage, but he came back with the leading lady from the race which had started behind us. We managed to stay with her pace but I was finding it difficult and had to drop back behind the Finn (bigger wash) but determined to stick with it until he dropped off. This he duly did just before upstream turn. Coming out of the turn the Spanish paddler was now only 100m in front as the long ride on the leading woman's wash had forced us to increase the pace and close the gap. We worked together to try to close the gap even further. I decided to make maximum effort to close the gap, but this was where the lack of liquid during the race took its toll as my right hand cramped up every time I gripped the paddle hard with the extra effort. I had to give up on the attempt to catch the Spaniard and concentrate on keeping my hand relaxed and avoid a severe attack of cramp when I would not have been able to grip the paddle. As I was not entirely sure that the Finn was telling the truth about being in the 65-69 age group, I made sure that I beat him to the finish over the last 50m and ended up in 6th place. The Finn was 7th overall and 1st in the 65-69 age group - so he had been telling the truth!

The start of the K2 race was notable for the power dinghy still being in front of the line of K2s when the "GO" was given - but fortunately for us just to our right! The main aim after the start was to keep steady and pick my way through the waves and boats and ride whatever wash was going. After 1000m we had caught up with 4 C2s and had problems picking our way through, as they seemed incapable of coping with the bumpy conditions and current. This meant that I was determined to get away from them. As a result of this we came out of the turn well clear of that group who did not catch us up. We set off after a South African K2 and caught them up quite quickly. As we took a rest on their wash another K2 came up on their left. They tried to burn us both off, but we held on and then suddenly they were in the water! We stayed with the South Africans and as we were on their right they agreed to go long and we both pulled into the portage together. We easily dropped them at the portage and started the second lap by ourselves trying to catch up with a Spanish crew about 200m in front. It was a surprise therefore when a German crew caught us up with only 1000m to go to the portage. They tried to drop us with a burn, but not before we were comfortably on their wash. I was quite enjoying this burst of activity when the German in the bow suddenly stopped paddling. We kept going and were in control going into the

portage. The final lap was a steady paddle round trying to catch up with the Spanish, mainly to keep ahead of those behind rather than with much hope of catching them. I did not suffer any cramp problems and we ended the day in a pleasing 2nd position.

There was a full medal ceremony with music. We had not been given any instructions by the team management so I was dressed ready to drive away immediately after the ceremony. It was clear that all those taking part had some form of national dress (eg track suit), so I had to borrow a vest and put it on over my polo sweater!

The Masters World Cup will take place in Hungary next year. Tony has already asked me if I want to do K2 with him, but I have no plans to travel that far. It was quite satisfying to go to the event in Tremolat and realise that I was not just making up the numbers but was quite competitive in my age group. Great Britain was the largest group at the Master's World Cup with 59 paddlers attending. This shows the degree of interest in this type of racing, but the only event in the UK that caters for the veteran paddler competing in 5 year age groups is the Windsor Vets. race. Perhaps more clubs could organise these events as part of or in addition to their regular events....

Dave Howie

"Olympic Hopes" Regatta

Olympic Hopes' was an under 17 sprint regatta held in Slovakia over the same weekend as the Marathon World Championships. Dean Terry was selected to race under 15 K1 and Ellie Hilderley was selected to do under 17 K2 with Lena Beardsel (Cokethrope School). The competition was tough and the Hungarian, German and Austrian teams were out in force. Dean put in two good efforts in the 500m and 1000m heats, but narrowly missed out on the finals. In the K2 1000m the girls made the final and finished a respectable 7th. The following day they were the 10th fastest qualifiers into the 500m final 0.15 of a second down on 9th place; with the first 9 going through. It was a great experience for all the paddlers and a positive note for them to end the season on. Ellie Hilderley

Tour De Gudenå 2006

On the weekend of the 9th-10th of September the annual Tour De Gudenå Marathon in Denmark took place with over 1000 entrants. The race involved 120km of paddling for the senior and junior men, 87km for the junior women and 57km for the under 16's. All races were broken down into stages with short breaks in between and involved paddlers tackling big lakes and narrow river sections. We had three paddlers out of the squad of 15 British paddlers: Simon Fennimore in the senior mens and Mark Childerstone and Matt Welch in the u16's. All of these paddlers did well with Simon Fennimore coming 2nd even after having sunk coming across the biggest lake of the race! Matt Welch took 5th and Mark Childerstone 10th doing well to catch up after an unfortunate swim in the middle of a lake on the first day. Although the racing was tough, the team spirit was high and many people had some memorable moments on and off the water! *Matt Welch*



"Belize-that's in Africa isn't it?"

(Part 5) by Catherine West

Gloop featured large on my jungle expedition. As it was the dry season the river dropped inches every day exposing a glistening and leg grabbing mud which was viscous and vicious because you never knew what lurked within! We had to brave a steep, muddy bank every time we left the relatively safe river for the jungle to camp. Colemans (open Canadians) are heavy anyway, but these were loaded with gear and food.



On the sea at Chichester we have a problem with mud too. It shifts with the tide and is very slippery underfoot. The kids nearly always have to carry their heavy, general purpose kayaks over 100m either before they start or at the end of a session when they are tired, because the tide has turned. We can't leave boats on the shoreline for a lunch or coffee break as they are liable to float away....

Nepal is a remote country, so access is a problem in a different way. There are few consumer goods so we had to take our boats from England.

The plane has problems landing on the high plateau, surrounded by mountains at Katmandu as it is typically fog bound. We needed our own bus to move us to all the remote rivers we paddled on. There are few roads and lots of landslides and accidents. However, no one else used the rivers in the gorgeous gullies and gorges. The locals would chat, wave and watch us. In no sense did they feel they "owned" the river. Here in the UK some beaches charge for launching. Some clubs pay high license costs and some rivers, such as the tidal Thames can be congested and fast flowing.

At WEY, I think we forget how easy our access is. We have a car park a few yards from the flat walk to level water at a prepared jetty. Other clubs have huge access problems and conflict with riparian owners, local authorities, ports, coastguards and other river and water users.

So, when on the river, please try to be polite or even charming. Don't get involved with yobs or fishermen (unless they hook you eh Mike?). Do not be abusive; give warning of your intentions. (Yes, I know which Richmond K2 tried to write me off on the first Hare & Hounds). The unthoughtful actions of the minority can affect us all. As Hilaire Beloc said: "And don't annoy your nurse for fear of getting someone worse!" Here endeth the lesson.....

WANTED: JUNIOR/STUDENT HELPERS

For MSTG Christmas Lunch at Waterside Centre
Sunday 7th January 2007.

They anticipate about 60 guests and need
waiters/waitresses/helpers.

Peter will be working together with our MSTG friends.
If you can be available from 12.00 and want a free lunch
e-mail peter.c.morley@btinternet.com

DATES FOR DIARIES:

Hare & Hounds - 19th November
Hare & Hounds - 3rd December
Christmas Dinner - 9th December see attached
Boxing Day Paddle
MS Therapy Group Lunch- Help needed 7-1-07
Hare & Hounds - 14th January 2007
Hare & Hounds - 4th February 2007
AGM & Awards - 8th March. 8.00pm



Spot the Difference

Can you spot 15 differences between picture A and picture B?



A



B



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

