



Wey Kayak Club

Newsletter

www.weykayak.co.uk

OCTOBER 2007

COMODORE'S COMMENT....

Jim's away in Australia catching up on a much needed holiday with Jill, so I am filling in for this newsletter.

Jim, as you may know, has retired this year from Managing the GB marathon team and was rewarded with a special commendation from the BCU after his last event. I am sure you will all join me in both congratulating him for this award and thanking him for all of the work he has put in supporting Wey paddlers as they progressed into the GB squad over the years.



BCU Web site "Jim Rossiter retired from the Marathon Racing Committee in August having been a member of the committee for 38 years and the International Team Manager for

Marathon since 1972. Jim was awarded the BCU Award of Honour at the National Championships this year in recognition of his service to canoeing. Jim's last event as the GB Team Manager was at the 15th World Championships in Hungary this September where the team finished fourth"

His final action at the World Championships was to make sure we had two of the best available K2s to suit the Club (and our budget) so none of us can blame the boats for not succeeding! One exciting thing for Jim is that he will move on to use his skills with the UK Dragon Boat team (another reason he is in Australia) so watch out all you C1 contenders as he may be looking for recruits. Must be easier with 22 in the boat and a drummer!

As the season draws to an end, you can all see from this newsletter and the website the

successes Club members have achieved including of course winning again (ok .. with a draw) the **Hasler Trophy**. That and the near success at the Interclub Sprint championship shows our strength in depth.

This comes from the efforts of the volunteer coaches and the determination of you all. The work put in by Julia, Peter and Cathy in being the stalwarts behind the Introductory scheme for new paddlers has resulted this year in a record Club membership and therefore many new paddlers. To all the new members may I add a special welcome and please ensure that you make full use of the Club to not only improve your paddling skills, but as you develop experience, also to join in as many events as you wish. Check the notice boards or the website, for information or ask your coach. With this tremendous number of fresh paddlers we may be a little short of available coaches at particular times so don't hesitate to contact me if you are not getting the support you expect. This will hopefully only be growing pains and it will not be long before we are up to speed again. If you are ready with a 90 minute 10 Km time, then the Hare and Hounds is an event you should try as anyone (who improves) can win. It also keeps you in trim and fit over the winter months!



The Club house continues to get organised and next spring should see all of the external and internal works finally completed and fitted out as

we would like. Don't forget that we need skills in this area as well as paddling, so any budding financial experts, carpenters, electricians, painters, gardeners can add to your enjoyment by assisting in Clubhouse maintenance and the Committee. We do need urgently another round of fund raising to settle our current liabilities and

push on with more new boat sheds and other facilities. Don't hold back... get involved (and that includes Mum and Dad) as it all adds to the spirit of The Club.

See you on the water.
David Kitching 01483 534879.

Reports & Results

It's been a busy season with many members competing at home and abroad. As usual there has been a full programme of Hasler qualifying marathons including our own Wey marathon held on 1st July. (Results on the website). Many of the more experienced paddlers have competed in the series of Assessment races and been selected to the GB Marathon Teams. In the Sprint Racing discipline the usual five National Regattas have attracted good numbers of Wey competitors including some Juniors new to the Sprints. Once again, Wey have had a high number of members, both Seniors and Juniors, achieving selection for international competitions at all levels. Below is a taste of the many events that members have been involved in.....



CANOE MARATHON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - GYOR, HUNGARY

This year's Marathon World Championships were held in Győr, Hungary on the Mosoni-Duna and the River Rába between 5 and 9 September.

Masters racing was held on Wednesday (K1) and Thursday (K2) over a 22 kilometre course which incorporated a small diversion off of the main river onto the River Rába, which is no wider than the River Wey, and also included two beach-style portages. Great Britain was well represented in the Masters Competition with quite large teams from Worcester and Reading in attendance. A good medal haul was achieved throughout the age categories including a bronze medal for Roy Feildus and myself in the K2 event.

The weather was *appalling* throughout the whole week culminating in the river having risen over 4 metres by the start of Saturday's racing. This meant that the course was shortened, the number of laps increased, the diversion onto the River Rába was excluded and there were no portages.

The area set out for boat storage, retailing, grandstands etc, was by this time under a good few metres of water!



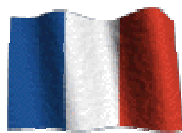
GB paddlers from Wey were represented in the men's K1 race by Simon Fennemore who came a creditable 15th and by Dean Terry and Mark Childerstone in the junior men's K2 who finished 12th after an unfortunate clag-up during the first lap of the race having been positioned well in the front group.

Anna Hemmings won another world title in the Women's K1 whilst Jess Walker picked up bronze medals in both the Junior K1 and K2 with Amoret King.

This was Jim's last event as the GB Team Manager where the team finished 4th in the point's table with 8 top ten placings from the 14 races in which we competed.

Adrian Henson

Loire Marathon - 26th- 30th September



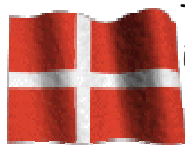
This was the first international "development" selection for Hazel Childerstone, Victoria Croucher and Charlie Welch. Joe Seaman joined us with the C Class team. The day of the marathon arrived and we all got up felling a little bit nervous but mostly excited about our race. We had practiced the under 14 course twice, and the under 16 course and the portage once, so we were all familiar with the river and the tricky parts of the course. Our race started at 3:30 in the afternoon so we headed down to the river for about midday. Melvin came back from the team leaders meeting and told us that there was going to be no portage on the under 16 course and that there would be a "le Mans"

start. For me and Hazel this was a good thing as we wanted a "le Mans" start, but for others this was not. We drove up to our starts, which were staggered up the river. We got our boats off the trailer and went for a quick warm up before lining our boats up on the beach. We all lined up about 50m away from our boats waiting to be started. The starter told us that he would say "attention 1, 2, 3" and on 1 we would start running. This didn't go to plan and on "attention" all the British paddlers started running and the French were quick to follow! Most of us got a good start and got away nicely.

The end results were good with Britain getting top places in every event we entered! Hazel and Vikki were 1st in U14 K2, Charlie was 3rd in U14 K1 and Joe was 3rd in his C1 race.

Vikki Croucher

Sieves don't float!!! - Gudenå, Denmark 2007



Tip: if you are planning to do the Tour de Gudenå and have to bail, remember where your boat is! "Along the shore of the big lake", isn't really going to help; neither is "Down a dirt track" - like all the other ones along the road.... Another tip: a boat can be replaced, you can't. Don't go down with your boat even if your mum will be cross!!!

The race started out well, if a bit windy. We were racing with the senior men and Tom Bridge was in the top group until the conditions got the better of him and he sank, and was just waved at by paddlers at a nearby club! When we arrived at the Mosø the waves were a mere foot or two high! Unfortunately conditions worsened after a few km and eventually we both succumbed to the inevitable swim, though mine was a little longer than I would have liked; nearly an hour! That was pretty much the race over for both of us, as our boats were broken (and I didn't really feel like risking drowning again). It then took me a few hours to find someone to give me a lift to back to Sarah, Tom and Martin.

Watch out Firemen worldwide! Following a washout on the racing we visited Legoland on the Sunday. In the fire challenge, speed and strategy was of the essence and, after much discussion and deliberation, we were able to pull together, putting up a great team including the commentator on board our engine. We were able to pull ahead and win the challenge!

Paul Yates



Neerpelt Sprint Regatta 24th - 26th August

Ten Wey paddlers plus parents and Sarah, spent a warm sunny weekend in Belgium. The racing was on a wide canal with 6 lanes, which provided excellent racing conditions.

The racing started on

Friday evening with a 4K time trial in which over 80 paddlers started in groups according to some sort of seeding, this was won by Dean, with Mark 5th and Michael L 11th.

On Saturday, there were heats and quarter finals for the 100M, 500M and 1000M races and also the long distance races in the evening. Jack won a

gold medal in the 2K minimen race, Hazel won bronze in the 2K kadetten race and Michael L won gold in the 5K. By this stage in the weekend, Michael, ecstatic at his performances declared himself to be the King of Belgium!

On Sunday there were semi-finals and finals, Dean won the 1000m and 500m K1 races and K2 500M and 1000 K2 races with Mark C. Sam and Mark Lamph did well to reach the 1000M final and come 5th. Charlotte and Beth also reached the 500m K2 final and came 4th.

In the K4 races, the Wey paddlers were unable to get to grips with the pull-bar steering mechanism in the wooden boats they borrowed. Dean managed to zig-zag into all 6 lanes during the course of the 1000M, finishing 2 minutes behind the winning

boat! In the 500M Mark did slightly better only going into 2 of the lanes, but came very near to taking out a brand new Vajda in the lane next to them. By the time it came to the girls under 16 K4, 500M final, Hazel who had listened carefully to what to do, managed to steer in a perfectly straight line and together with Charlotte, Beth and a Belgian paddler, won a silver medal! Everyone really enjoyed the weekend, our Belgian hosts were very friendly and welcoming and the racing was good experience, with lots of Wey paddlers forming crews with paddlers from other clubs.

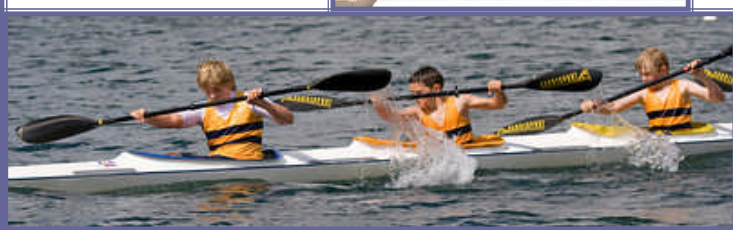
Thanks to Sarah for arranging and organizing the trip.

Hazel Childerstone

NATIONAL FLATWATER SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS

July, and the Junior National Championships were held at Dorney Lake, Eton for the first time. In the Senior classes, most of the Olympic Racing Squad were in action ahead of the major internationals of the season. The venue lacks many of the facilities that we are accustomed to at Nottingham, but nobody complained that they had missed the journey up the M1!

It was a breezy weekend, but bright, a welcome respite from the gloomy summer. The following Wey paddlers achieved promotion: Mike Lambert to Boys A, Sam Driscoll to B, Charlie Welch to C and Victoria Croucher to Girls B. Congratulations to all the *Wey National Champions*: U18 Girls K2 500 and 1000, Abi Edmonds/Ellie Hilderley: U16 Girls K2 500, Phoebe Ayres/Beer (ROY): U14 Girls K2 500 Hazel Childerstone/Vikki Croucher and also in K4 with their Elmbridge crew: U16 Boys K1 500 and 1000, Dean Terry and with Mark Childerstone in K2 500 and 1000. (Full results on website)



Photos: A. Edmonds

September, and it was back to the familiarity of the National Watersports Centre for the annual *MacGregor Paddle* Inter-Club and Inter-Services Sprint Regatta. Last year Wey won this competition. This year our numbers were down due to people away at international events. However there was some quality racing across all events and Wey were able to pick up valuable points. It was great too, to see several junior paddlers competing for their first time at Nottingham this year. Happily it warmed up on the Saturday evening for the BBQ, though as it became increasingly dark, it became increasingly difficult to be quite sure what you were eating!



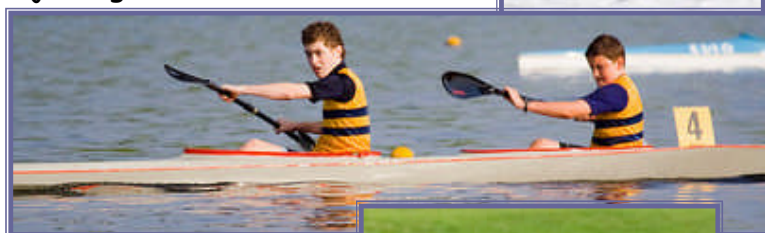
The final result saw Wey in second place, 20 points behind Leighton Buzzard and 30 points ahead of Norwich. Well done to all! Congratulations to Alice Haws on promotion to Girls B and Mike Walsh to Mens B.



Sprinting together for the first time, Alex Sokolov and Richard Lipscombe achieved 3rd in Boys D K2 500 and in Boys C Mark Lamph and Charlie Welch were also 3rd in K2 500. Abi Edmonds had a great regatta with 1sts in girls B K1 1000 and 500 and 1sts in crewboats too with Ellie Hilderley in K2 1000 and with Ellie, Phoebe Ayres and Beth Stevens in K4 1000 and 500. Alice Haws was 2nd in Girls C K1 1000. The Seniors contributed well to the final result. Fay Lamph, Rachel Cawthorn, Claire and Celia Gilbe and Alison Aulde all had top three placings. In the Mens Classes there were fine performances across the events: Mike Walsh, Paul Wycherley, Guy Mullins and Chris Luck in K1 and Rob Williams, Adrian Croucher and Robin Ayres joining in to earn crew boat



points. Richard Etheridge and Chris Luck added C2 success.



It was great too, to have valuable entries in the Junior Canoe classes. How could any regular Club visitor have missed Joe Seaman passing on his new skills to others over the

summer? The result; Joe with Andy Bonham 3rd in C2 1000, and the two of them joined by Ellie Hilderley/Phoebe Ayres and Tom Cawthorn achieving 3rd and 2nd places in C4!

This was Chris Lucks last regatta as the Wey Team Leader - not an enviable or easy task. Thanks Chris, for all you've done.



WEY KAYAK CLUB HASLER CHAMPIONS 2007

The **HASLER Trophy** has been competed for annually since 1957. It forms the backbone of Marathon racing nationally, with the four clubs with the most points from each Region qualifying to compete in the final in September. Wey have won the Trophy on five previous occasions, the last being in 1993. This year we were awarded it jointly.....

There was high expectation as a good number of Wey paddlers travelled to Pangbourne Canoe club for the 2007 Hasler Final. After just coming second at September Regatta the weekend before, the club had scores to settle and success was inevitable.

The club spirit was on show as Wey had entries in ten separate divisions, with top results being gained in all. Our paddlers taking part in the four mile races showed great effort and endurance as they all fought for the top places. Jack Childerstone was our top competitor in division 8, achieving 3rd place along with a promotion to div 7. Charlie Welch, paddling in division 7, came 1st, being promoted to division 6, no doubt wanting some more portages in his next racing season! The twelve mile races in the afternoon held similar success as Rob Williams gained an

impressive 2nd place in division 1. Tom Bridge came 6th and Simon Easterling 10th in division 2 and Matthew Welch achieved promotion from div 3 after coming 3rd.

Our crew boats were also well represented and many top positions were won. Our highest entry was Adrian Henson and Adrian Croucher in division 1/2 who came 3rd and won the trophy for the highest placed veteran crew boat in the competition. Mark Childerstone and Michael Lambert claimed 1st place in division 3/4 doubles whilst Sam Driscoll and James Cordery fought to 2nd in div 5/6. All of these successes culminated in a joint **first place for Wey** (with Elmbridge CC) in the overall Halser points, a fantastic result and one in which all the competitors should be very proud. Congratulations to all that took part.

Tom Bridge

Olympic Hopes Regatta



On the weekend of the 22nd-23rd September a group of paddlers representing the BCU, traveled to Bydgoszcz in Poland for the annual Olympic Hopes Regatta. Conditions for racing were very favorable with a light tailwind and sunshine; however concrete banks for the last 100m made for a choppy end to your race, the last thing you needed! The stars of the weekend were Tom Simmons (BOA) and our very own Abi Edmonds who made finals in all the events they were entered in, with Tom picking up an impressive bronze medal with his Partner Oli Gibson in the 500m K2. Other Wey paddlers who made the trip were Phoebe Ayres and Matt Welch. Phoebe made semi finals in both her k1 events and the highlight of the weekend for Matt was a 6th place in the 1000m K2 final with partner Tom Mainprize (RDG). In all, the regatta was a very challenging and rewarding end to the season and shows just how much hard work we're going to have to put in this winter! *Matt Welch*



National Marathon Championships 2007

Mid August, and one could expect a bit of warmth and sunshine in which to enjoy the high standard of racing. Instead the leaden clouds over Wokingham lifted only briefly for the whole weekend.

In U14 Girls K1 there was fierce competition. Hazel Childerstone won the silver. The race had been going well for Vikki Croucher until a collision of boats ended her race. A chilly day for a long swim.

After a somewhat protracted, ill disciplined start with the adrenaline rushing, the senior assessment race saw 3rd and 4th places for Simon Fennemore and Rob Williams respectively. In the C Classes John Badelek won his race and congratulations to Joe Seaman and Andy Bonham for finishing their lonely C2 race, sole competitors in U18. Three more National Champions!

In U16 Boys K1, Wey showed their strength with three paddlers in the top four. Congratulations to Dean Terry in 1st closely followed by Mark Childerstone for the silver medal.

The weather worsened for the presentations and many people took the opportunity for an early retreat home before returning for more action on Sunday.

Vikki Croucher and Hazel Childerstone started the day by becoming U14 K2 National Champions! Mark Childerstone and Dean Terry followed them with a superb win, racing up an age group in the U18 assessment race. In Senior K2 Ed Cox won Gold in partnership with A. Daniels (RDG). Jon Simmons won Silver with Spencer (HER). Questionable tactics from some competitors led to wrecked boats and forced retirements in this and also the U16 K2 race. Mike Lambert achieved silver in that event with Colyer (RDG).

In Vet. Ladies K2 Amanda Childerstone raced to a commanding first position with Ali Pendle (NOR).

In the final points table Leighton Buzzard were champions ahead of Reading, with **Wey in Third Place**. Congratulations to **all** the paddlers who turned up on a gloomy, dismal, *summer* weekend and scored lots of points for the Club!



MARATHON RULES CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE 2007-08 SEASON....

The new rules mean that races over the 12 mile distance must either be K1 divisions 1, 2 and 3 **OR** a K2 race for division 1/2/3. See the Marathon Canoeing Website for full details and click on Hasler Management System.....

WINTER TRAINING DAYS

The following dates and venues have been planned for marathon training days this winter:-

3rd November, K1/C1, Wey KC - Including presentation by Anna Hemmings

15th December, K2/C2, Worcester CC

5th January, K2/C2, Elmbridge CC (followed by Frank Luzmore the next day)

16th February, K1/C1 Reading CC (followed by Thameside 2 the next day)

These are aimed at experienced paddlers that are in, or aspiring to be in, the national squad. Discuss with your coach if you're not sure if it applies to you....



In the media... ..

Tony encuentra la fama internacional! (or Tony finds international fame!)

Anyone visiting Northern Spain this year should not be surprised to see a familiar face on the sea. Tony Sokolov has become a local celebrity after only 3 weeks of sea kayak training in Zumaia. In July he took part in a 12km sea marathon together with many others representing the popular ITXAS-GAIN club in competition with 26 regional clubs and completed it in 52 mins.40 secs. (The K1 club record is 37 mins by world class paddlers). The ITXAS-GAIN club is of a high standard, having one world champion and whose members participate in international competitions. At the presentation after his introductory sea marathon, Tony received a beautiful sculptured model of the 13th century monastery that Zumaia is founded upon and had his name included in the local newspaper. A fitting tribute for a 'veteran' kayaker!



Did you spot some familiar faces on the TV on Monday 3rd September? As part of their "Street Doctor" series, the BBC did some filming at the April Regatta at the NWSC, Nottingham. Many of the WEY squad could be spotted as "Doctor George examined Olly Welch's lacerated hand. There were some good shots of the racing too!



From the Banbury CC Website.....

Two canoeists were paddling down the river, when they hit a concrete wall. One looked at the other and said, dam!

You may be a paddler if:

- you wash hang whilst driving on the M40
- you lean to the right whilst turning left on your bicycle
- you tie down the boat better than you seatbelt in the kids.
- your friends or relatives are shocked when you answer the phone at home on a weekend.
- you find yourself kicking the clutch pedal when driving instead of using the steering wheel
- you approach a car parking space at a 45 degree angle, crash into the kerb, leap out and attempt to sling the car over your shoulder.



WANTED: CLUB TREASURER

Due to work commitments, Ian will be standing down at the next AGM in March. We therefore need someone with proven book-keeping skills to fill this essential position on the Committee. If you (or anyone you know) have these skills and can offer them to ensure the Club's continued success, speak to Jim Rossiter or have a chat with Ian to find out what's involved. treasurer@weykayak.co.uk

Also from the Committee: a HUGE thank you to Chris Luck for his work as Secretary. Again, work commitments have forced his resignation. Thanks to Linda Heath for stepping in.

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

- ❖ **TRIATHLON - SUNDAY 21st OCTOBER AM. - Bike, Run, Canoe.**
See details on the notice board or speak to Eric Jamieson.

- ❖ **BCU Courses: Junior Canoe Safety Test**
Aqua First Aid

Peter has organised these & the first one is during half term. Hurry and book your place NOW. See lists on the board or catch Peter Morley.

- ❖ **Come and take part in the Hare & Hounds! The winter season 10k races, starting and finishing at Wey Kayak Club. Dates are:**

28TH OCTOBER
18TH NOVEMBER
(9TH DECEMBER) SPARE DATE
16TH DECEMBER
13TH JANUARY
10TH FEBRUARY



- ❖ **Do not miss the Club Christmas Dinner!**



December 1st 2007 Get the date in your diary - NOW! Booking details to follow....

- ❖ **Especially for Wey Kayak Club -PGL Adventure Day! At Marchants Hill, Hindhead. A day of adventure for you and your family. Sunday 4th November 9.30 - 5.00. Lunch included. See posters at Club for more details.**



Breaking News.....

As a result of Tony Sokolov's ambassadorship in Spain (see above) the Spanish club ITXAS-GAIN are keen to negotiate some kind of reciprocal exchange of canoeing / social experience. Details to be discussed. Watch this space!