



# Wey Kayak Club

## Newsletter

OCTOBER 2008



[www.weykayak.co.uk](http://www.weykayak.co.uk)

**NATIONAL MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2008**

**WINNERS OF THE MACGREGOR PADDLE 2008**

### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I am delighted to report that we have had a really successful spring and summer at the Club.

Our monthly Introductory Courses since April have all been full and we hope that all those who have participated have enjoyed the experience and are now 'hooked' on canoeing. Many of the newcomers have now joined the Club, swelling the numbers in the Saturday morning and afternoon groups and some have joined in on Tuesday and Thursday as well. Thanks to all those who have staffed these courses, to John Lea for doing all the staff planning and Julia for taking all the booking and meeting and greeting on Saturdays. We hope that some of the coaching staff can now find an extra bit of time, especially on a Saturday afternoon to give a better coach to paddler ratio and increase the technical input to the sessions. They tell me that technique is the all-important thing!!!



We hope that the newcomers, who have joined the Saturday groups and now feel happy about a trip to St. Cats lock and back in 90 minutes, will join in our winter series the Hare & Hounds. (Dates below). See your Saturday coach for details. Also we would like them to have a go in the bottom division of the local regional Marathon events. The lower divisions race over about 6 to 7 km. See Mike Childerstone to talk about transport and entries.

I hope you will all have seen the reports on our website, about our summer successes. For the first time, we won the Club Team Trophy at the National Marathon Championship, in Worcester. This is a true reflection of the overall performances of all our paddlers in their age groups. Then 2 weeks later, we went and did it again at the National Club Sprint Championship, at Nottingham!!!!!! A fantastic effort by everybody: well done to all those who competed.



At the top end of the competition ladder we have had our best year to date with Club members representing Great Britain. Members have raced in Senior, under 23 and junior level, at Marathon and Sprint World and European Championships, as well as development events. There are reports on these successes in this newsletter, but remember, you can always get up to date results by following the links that Richard Cawthorn sets up on the website.



I hope you all had the pleasure of seeing Tim Brabants win his Gold and Bronze medals at the Olympics. What a fantastic day it was for GB canoeing! As we go to press, we think that Tim is

going to compete on **19 October, in the Wey Triathlon**, that Eric is organising. We have over 80 entries for the event, and it is not too late to race an Olympic Champion on that day. It should be great fun, so let's see you on the day to race or watch. Tell Eric ASAP if you want to race.

We have just received our BCU 'Top Performance Club', and for the first time our BCU 'Top Community Club' Certificates. These, together with our Sport England 'Club Mark' status, show the canoeing world, and all other sporting bodies the high standard coaching and club structure across all aspects of the sport, that exist at Wey.

As we move into the winter months I am sure that the Gym will come under greater use. Please help Mike Walsh in his role as Gym Manager to make the Gym a healthy, clean and safe place to work out, along with the BSCA or MSTG members. If you know somebody who wants to use the excellent Gym facility, then they must join us as a full member of one of the clubs or group, and go through an induction course with Mike or one of the other qualified instructors.



The GWC's re-launched its **GWC 400 Club** to aid our fundraising, to pay off our loans. The fee to join is now £24 for 12 monthly draws. We hope that many more of you will now join, and the details and forms are on the website and available at the Clubhouse.

You will all know that we are very tight for racking at the Centre. The additional K1 shed will be ready very soon. Our thanks to the 'builders' in the Club, Robin, Adie, Roy & Eric for their work and expertise on this. The increased capacity will relieve the congestion in the K2 storage where we have racked of some very expensive equipment, (Including the recently purchased new Marathon Nelo L). Until all the K1 are moved, **PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL HOW YOU RACK THE K2s.**

You will more than likely have received this Newsletter by e-mail. It has gone to 70% of members in this way. If you have received a hard copy, collected at the Club, please let us have an e-mail address on which to contact you. It is also posted on the website. We will not be sending it land mail. Please make full use of the website; it is continually updated by Richard Cawthorn. Have a look at the photos taken at events by Anthony Edmonds they are excellent.

[www.weykayak.co.uk](http://www.weykayak.co.uk)

I look forward to seeing you all on 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Triathlon and at the Hare and Hounds and also at the Commodore's Xmas dinner, on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Space is limited, so do not be disappointed. Book early. (Form to print on final page of this newsletter).

**Would all juniors please make sure that your parents read this newsletter, so that they know what is happening at the Club. *Jim Rossiter- Chairman***



## **HARE & HOUNDS SERIES 2008-2009**

**2<sup>nd</sup> November; 23<sup>rd</sup> November; 14 December; 11<sup>th</sup>**

**January; 8<sup>th</sup> February. *Get these dates in your***

***diaries now!*** We assign three "spare" dates just

in case we need to postpone due to poor weather

or river conditions. These are 30<sup>th</sup> December; 18<sup>th</sup> January; 1st March.

**JUNIOR OR STUDENT  
HELPERS WANTED FOR  
MS THERAPY GROUP  
CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

The MSTG (Samson Centre) based at Guildford Waterside Centre, are holding their Xmas Lunch event on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2009. They anticipate around sixty, hungry guests!

**WANTED FROM WEY:**

**About TEN junior/student helpers to be waiters/waitresses and generally assist with the event.**



Peter will be working on the organisation with the MSTG and heading up the kitchen team on the day. You will be needed at around 12.00 noon (to be confirmed) so will have time to fit in your morning training session!

If you can offer your assistance or want to know more, e-mail [peter.c.molrey@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.c.molrey@btinternet.com) ☎01483 571996 or see him at the Club. You will get a **free lunch** for helping with this special joint Waterside Centre project!

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## Race Reports

### Zumaia Exchange

The exchange with Itaxis Gain, the Zumaian club, was a great success and they have asked that it can be continued on an annual basis with some Canoe paddlers hoping to take part next year!



The Trip to Zumaia started early on 18/07/2008: 03.00 for most making our way to the airport. All went well for most except that for some

reason Vicki hadn't booked her baggage onto the plane! This was sorted and the flight went well. Unfortunately there was a hiccup in translation and communication and they were expecting us at 10.00pm not am so after a three hour delay we were picked up and taken to the hotel. The hotel was surprisingly good despite the rumours. We spent the rest of the day paddling the course on the estuary and then practising the Le Mans start on the beach. Most people fell out several times, to the amusement of the local Basque paddlers. We then swam for a while and the braver ones jumped from a bridge by the club. This wasn't supposed to be too high- another thing lost in translation!! - Congratulations to Richard Lipscombe who after much encouragement and several false starts managed to jump too; his claim to fame now being a four time World champion gave him a standing ovation for his bravery!

The racing on Saturday was not until the evening due to the heat so the morning was spent practicing on the beach again, resulting in the steering of one boat breaking and another one almost snapping in half before the race, but both were fixed and ready to race by the evening thanks to the club and the power of Duct tape – in order to become a great hit make sure you have a roll of tape. The hosts were amazed at the ingenuity of Mark, James and Peter and their skills with tape.



The race was good and it had cooled down quite a bit by the time it started. The start was manic with everybody starting together from Lightning's to Senior Men's K2's so jostling for space for your boat and running fast was vital, Richard had the best start out of everybody and was fifth overall off the start. Mark came 10<sup>th</sup> in the Junior Race and Paul was eighth in the Senior men's. Most people swam at least once. Vicki was in the water for about 15 minutes after capsizing but was eventually taken back to the club after practically swimming there herself anyway. For Sunday's race, which was in the mountains, the weather was cooler and we set off mid afternoon dropping the Under 16's half way up the course whilst the Under 18's and Seniors travelled further up the mountain. After clambering down a cliff to get to the river, the start was just before a large weir and had a

chance to have a quick look at the first rapids and the weir – Paul nearly managed to miss his start looking at it in minute detail at it but made it just in time. The Mens K2's started first with chaos ensuing at the first weir mainly due to James Beyer's decision to ignore the advice of helpful locals eventually they all got down, James and Peter minus a rudder. Paul was next to start, he managed to get down eventually, again minus a rudder and the back four inches of his boat and so spent the rest of the race snaking around which amused the Basques greatly- one boat written off. Sarah had better luck but thought someone said jump just before she got to the weir, so she did and swam over the weir with the boat, but made up several places. Peter eventually managed to fix their K2 rudder after much perusing of the problem by James, and they limped to the finish sinking as they went – almost to the point

of pirouetting on the front - another boat written off! Following the weir there were several rapids with stoppers and fierce currents to contend with, many people had to stop several times to empty boats or swim, some reported up to ten stops. Mark and Richard had a good race coming fifth and managed to finish strongly, Sarah and Vicki both came third in K1. Vicki and Alex both raced the shorter course with fewer rapids but a La Mans start which was pushed so much that they started in their boats.

The excitement of the race was followed by a meal with the Basque and a day trip to their capital.

For future reference to everybody if you take baggage out of the country the chances are that you would like it to come back with you – you need a return ticket not a single or you will end up paying double!!!! Sarah Akerman

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### Marathon World Cup, Crestuma

Back in July, GB paddlers embarked on a journey to Crestuma, Portugal for Marathon World Cup2. We were, of course, well represented with Mark and Matt racing both junior mens K1 and K2, Mike racing junior K2, Hazel and Vicky racing junior womens K2, Simon racing senior K1 and Jon racing senior K2. The course consisted of 5 laps for juniors, 6 laps for women and 7 laps for men and included a lung busting portage up a hill and over sand. In the junior mens K1 Mark took a bronze medal, with Matt in 5<sup>th</sup>. In senior mens K1 Simon came home 15<sup>th</sup> in a race made even harder by strong winds.



On Sunday it was the turn of the K2s to race. In the junior mens Mark went on to collect his second bronze of the weekend with Dan Barber (Elm). After a good start Mike and Matt had to pull out as Mike's wrist injury was playing up. In the junior womens Hazel and Vicky achieved a 4<sup>th</sup> place and the other GB crew of Churnside and Collins (RDG) claimed a silver medal. The senior mens race was made tougher once again by strong winds: some competitors sinking! Jon and partner Tim Pendle (NOR) managed to avoid the carnage and came home 6<sup>th</sup>. The weekend was very successful for GB and things are looking good for the World Championships that are being held there in Crestuma in 2009. *Matt Welch*



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On Thursday 11th September a group of 11 GB canoeists, including Alice Haws and Rob Williams from Wey, flew out to Gudena, Denmark to take part in the Tour de Gudena. Rob was racing 120km over two days and Alice 57km. Once we had found our way to the youth hostel we made our way to the start of the U16 race to paddle over the lakes, checking out a bit of the course. It was a little choppy but we made our way down the course and back to the hostel.

When it came to the race day the wind was light and the sun was shining. On the first day the senior men had to complete two stages over several lakes. The next morning was an early start with the first start at 07:30. It was very cold at the start but as the day went on it started to warm up. The river was a lot narrower than the lakes the previous day however there was a lot of weed covering the bottom. The 20 minutes stop after 14 miles went very quickly and it seemed seconds before we were back on the water. The team did very well with 7 medals including a bronze for Rob and silver for Alice.

*AliceHaws*

## THE NATIONAL MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS, 23 – 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST.

This year the competition was held on the river Severn at Worcester canoe club. The river level was high due to a lot of rain in the preceding couple of weeks and paddling upstream against the flow was really hard for the younger competitors. Also, as the landing stage was still partly submerged the portage had to be made longer than usual.

Unlike most other marathon competitions, paddlers compete in age groups rather than divisions, with K1 races on the Saturday and K2 on the Sunday; so most people take part in 2 events during the weekend. That is, unless you're really keen, (like Charlie) and enter the next age group up as well as your own, in which case you can do 4 marathons over the weekend! In contrast, other potential paddlers may decide that the social side of things and celebrating birthday's is more fun than actually getting into a boat!

Anyway, as a result of everyone's efforts we managed to get enough points to just beat Elmbridge and win the trophy - so well done everyone. There is a list of medal winners on the *News* section of the website (25<sup>th</sup> August). Also an Outdoors TV film "Race Day" was shot over the weekend which gives lots of interesting information about marathon racing - well worth a look:

[www.outdoorstv.tv](http://www.outdoorstv.tv) See how many paddlers you can recognise? *Amanda C*



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## MASTERS WORLD CUP - TYN



If anybody is considering taking a holiday in the Czech Republic I suggest you avoid September - it's freezing! Our races started at 8.00 a.m. (why so early I don't know?) in sub zero temperatures, freezing fog and 50m visibility. Was it not for a large footbridge spanning the river we wouldn't have even been able to locate the portage. The start was combined with two other age groups resulting in the competitors never being exactly clear where they stood in their own age category.

The result was a disappointing 6<sup>th</sup> place, being beaten by other K2 crews from Belgium and Spain that have finished behind us in previous years.

Dave Howie and his partner John Ince were more successful securing a fine silver medal in their age group. There is a lot to be said for taking your full winter kit. I'll never take the \*\*\*\* out of Dave again for wearing hat, pogies and waterproof in September.

The Masters competition, which acts as prelude to the junior and senior World Championship races, and ensures greater spectator levels over the weekend, has become a huge event with over 200 competitors from all over the world. It contributes considerably to the financial viability of the World Championships - so a bit more thought to the organisation, facilities and timing of races would be appreciated at future events.

Roy (Fieldus) and I stayed on to watch the Junior and Senior races (and drink a few beers). Jim did a splendid job of providing running commentary via the P.A. system throughout the weekend. Wey paddlers (Simon, Jon, Mark, Dean, Hazel, Vicky) did us proud and we even managed to pick up a new Nelo K2 at a bargain price.

Jim tells us that we can expect even more chaotic organisation at Crestuma next year! - At least it'll be warm.

*Sage*

For full results see event website [www.canoemar.cz/2008/results.php](http://www.canoemar.cz/2008/results.php) Congratulations to Ed Rutherford (ELM) for becoming Junior World Champion in K1 and K2 with Tom Hide (ADS).

## Junior and U23 European Championships - Szeged

Abigail Edmonds, Dean Terry, Rachel Cawthorn, Paul Wycherley and Ed Cox were the Wey paddlers selected to represent GB in July. Thanks to Abi for the following report and her Dad Antony, for the photos:

You couldn't ask for a better way to start the weekend. The first national anthem to play- and it was BRITISH!  
Having spent three weeks training in Hungary, we were all itching to race.

Your first sight of the course tells you the competition will be good; it looks neat, clean and professional. Not only is the course impressive but there are sponsors' posters from the finish to the 200m mark! The Championships were over four days. It was tiring; completely unlike racing over two days.

They kicked off with the opening ceremony:

A plane swoops down and ejects a mannequin into the water.

Suddenly, from where the mannequin lands, a Freddie Mercury look-a-like climbs over the railings and bursts into song!

The ceremony continued with a stream of impersonators. It ended with a classic battle between canoeists and kayakers, and another rendition of Queen.

So that set us up for the morning...

I was racing K2 with Amo King and we made both finals. Pretty much all the team also made their respective finals.

Jess Walker's 1000m K1 was the first final. She stormed through her last 250 to become European Champion. Amo and I, getting on the water as the anthem played, of course wanted a medal too. Consequentially coming seventh was disappointing, but it gives me a target for next year.

Sunday was pretty exciting, or extremely disappointing depending on your viewpoint. Firstly Jess's race plan left her wanting, meaning she ended in silver position, not a double champion as hoped. In turn Amo and I were to finish seventh again, but having produced a PB in the semi- finals, we were happier.

Then, there was a bomb scare. Racing was delayed for 1.5 hours while sniffer dogs hunted out the imaginary bomb.

The final event was the U23 Women's K4. It was the tightest race I have ever seen; were they third or fourth? In the end we sent Anne Ferguson up to the tower to relieve our suspense. They were fourth. A disappointment for Rachel who was fourth last year, but a pretty exciting race.

Finally; it was a good Championships, a shame it came at the end of my season though as I was only just getting into the swing of racing!



### Olympic Hopes Regatta - Szeged

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 15 athletes representing the BCU flew out to Hungary to compete in the annual Olympic Hopes regatta being held in Szeged. Conditions at the course were good for racing with a slight tailwind but it was rather chilly so lots of the time at the racecourse was spent tucked inside boat bags trying to keep warm! Maria Middlehurst put in good performances in her K1 1000m and 500m beating her old PB by 5 seconds! In the girls 1000m K2 race Phoebe Ayres and her partner Jess Collins (RDG) came 7<sup>th</sup> and in the girls 500m race Charlotte Thomas with Amelia Churnside (RDG) came 7<sup>th</sup>, both crews achieved personal bests but the Hungarians were just too quick! Matt Welch paddling with Tom Simmons (BOA) Oli Gibson (ROY) and Krystian Gaul (ANK) (and a broken finger!) lead the boys 1000m K4 into the final coming 4<sup>th</sup> place in their heat and doing well in the final. After our hard weekend of racing we went out into Szeged town centre on Sunday evening, to socialise with the Belgians. Sadly, we had to leave the next day when the weather had changed from freezing cold to hot, sunny, ice cream weather! *Charlotte Thomas*



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### BELGIUM - BEER, CHOCOLATE..... AND THE NEERPELT REGATTA

From the 29<sup>th</sup> through to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August a number of Wey kayakers and canoeists competed in the Flemish Championships in Neerpelt, Belgium. The weekend started with a 4km race, known as the "door" on Friday evening, in which almost every competitor from every country present competed. The whole thing got very hectic and chaotic, but there were a number of Wey paddlers near the front of the whole lot.

The Saturday saw the start of the 1000m and 500m heats as well as the 100m heats for the u14's and u12's. Most Wey paddlers made it through these ready for the finals on the Sunday. Also later on in the evening there were the long distance races in which Wey had a few good results.

The Sunday saw the semis and finals for the 1000, 500 and 100m and some great results for our paddlers. Many medals were won in all age groups and categories. The programme was very busy as most of us had entered K1, K2 and K4 and there was usually some negotiation required as we borrowed the K4s. Fortunately we avoided any international incident although Andy had to remain resolute as an Iranian tried to strike a deal to buy his boat...his canoe was **not** for sale!!



We visited a pizza restaurant in the town that evening for a well earned dinner as the thunder rumbled, but came to nothing.

The whole regatta was great fun, with beautiful weather (summer had finally arrived) and fantastic hospitality from the hosts and other international clubs. Finally: a big thank you to Sarah Akerman for organizing the weekend and parents etc. for help with food, race entries and logistics. *Charlie Welch*

## BCU National Flatwater Sprint Racing Championships Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

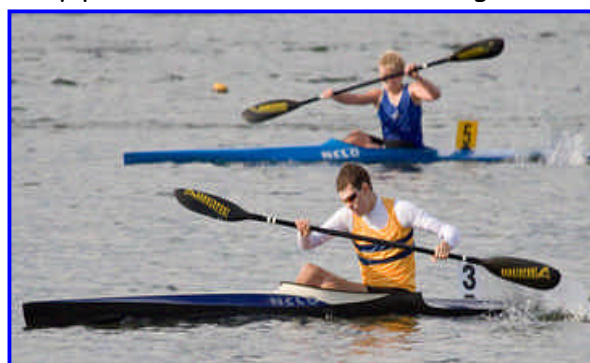
July, and the National Junior and Class Championships took place. The weather was mixed with a rather unhelpful wind direction that influenced racing, some lanes apparently more advantageous than others. As ever there was some very competitive racing and the opportunity to watch the future Olympic Gold medalist perform on home water! We had some great results in the junior age group events. The Welch brothers both achieved well in respective classes, Matt winning bronze in U18 K1 500m and with Mark Childerstone, a silver in K2 1000m. Mike Lambert was awarded bronze in the same event with Connelly (LEI). Charlie picked up bronze in K1 500, silvers in K2 1000 and 500 (Hicks, NOR) and golds in K4, both distances.

In U18 girls, Phoebe Ayres won gold in K1 1000, bronze in 500m and silvers in both K2 events (Collins, RDG). Charlotte Thomas won golds in both K2 distances with Churnside (RDG). In U16 Vicky Croucher won silver in K1 1000 and bronze in K4 with Hazel Childerstone and Alice Haws. Alice also picked up silvers in K2 over both distances with Collins (RDG).

In Mens A events, Liam Heath again showed his strength as he steadily makes his come back after an Education break from serious competition.



And so to September and the Inter-Club, MacGregor Paddle competition. After the dismal summer, all were hoping for some late summer sunshine. Hopes were dashed. Across the country there was a high risk of flooding and the Trent in Nottingham was no exception. As a result regatta lake levels were high and the conditions generally were not pleasant for competitors and spectators alike. Not a welcoming start to your national sprint racing career, but special mention must go to the boys and girls who made a brave effort to support the Club in their first regatta; and as was evident at the end, every paddler counts in the MacGregor! Many thanks also to all the parents who support juniors with food, cheers, finance (lots) and TLC: to Oscar's Dad for towing the trailer and **everyone** involved in the "Team Wey" effort over the Season. In case you hadn't heard: **WE WON!** It was a closely fought battle with Richmond CC. but James Bayer wrapped up proceedings by winning Boys C K1 1000 at the end of Sunday and clinching those vital K1 points!!



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO ARE OFF TO UNI, AMONGST THEM, TOM, JOE, ANDY AND JAMES. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JAMES GORDERY FOR ALL HIS HARD WORK OVER THE SUMMER, LIAISING WITH HIS SCHOOL AND SUPPORTING PETER AND CATHY WITH THE GROUPS ATTENDING FOR COURSES.**

Send booking form, available online, to Julia Simmons before Nov. 30th

**Special Guests**

**Dec. 6th**  
Meet at 7pm



**Wey**

**Christmas dinner**

Juniors: £14.50  
Seniors: £18.50  
Late entry fee: £2

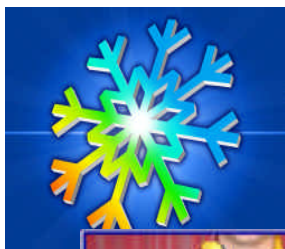
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### DATES FOR DIARIES



- OCTOBER - 19 WEY TRIATHLON  
26 RICHMOND MARATHON
- NOVEMBER - 2 HARE & HOUNDS  
23 HARE & HOUNDS
- DECEMBER - **6 CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
14 HARE & HOUNDS
- JANUARY - 4 FRANK LUZMORE  
4 MSTG LUNCH  
11 HARE & HOUNDS
- FEBRUARY - 8 HARE & HOUNDS  
15 WATERSIDE A  
22 THAMESIDE 1
- MARCH - 1 WATERSIDE B  
8 THAMESIDE 2  
15 WATERSIDE C  
22 ROYAL  
29 WATERSIDE D
- APRIL - 4-5 SPRINT REGATTA  
10-13 DEVIZES - WESTMINSTER



**KIT - winter's on its way! Time to order a Wey jacket.....**  
Fleece lined or cotton lined. Ideal after training or at those winter marathons. Order forms on website and on notice board at Club. £22.50 adult £17.00 children



**LATEST NEWS.....** The first regional Hasler Marathon of the 2009 season was held at Elmbridge CC on 5<sup>th</sup> October. A number of Wey paddlers braved the miserable weather and some good results were achieved. Newcomers, Sebastian and Calvin Freebody came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Div 9 and have been promoted to Div. 8. Alex Sokolov was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Div. 6 and Jack Childerstone was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Div. 5 having led the race for much of the way. Not bad when you're still only 12! At the other end of the spectrum, Rob and Ewan were 1<sup>st</sup> in Div. 123 K2 with Vicky Croucher, paddling with Nathan Johnson (ELM) in a close 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Congratulations to Toby Humphreys and Abi Fieldus for scoring valuable points for Wey in the Lightning classes.

Anyone else wishing to have a go at their first marathon race speak to your coaches. Remember in Div. 9 a marathon is actually about 4 miles and Lightning races about half of that.

Thank you to John for the following. If anyone wishes to include a report or information in the newsletter please send to [newsletter@weykayak.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@weykayak.co.uk) . The next newsletter will go out in December.

### Nottingham Regatta - a "First-timers" View



On September 6th and 7<sup>th</sup> I went up to Nottingham with three other boys (Tom Ng, Tom Tozer and Oscar Hodgson). Up in Nottingham there was a National sprint regatta and an inter-club Macgregor paddle competition. Wey kayak club won the Macgregor paddle by 5 points over Richmond.

We left at about 4.00pm Friday and it took us about 4 hours to get there when it should only take about 2 ½ hours. This was because we were on the M25 during the rush hour and so it was inevitable that we would get stuck on the motorway for a long period of time. When we got to the campsite, it was getting dark. It took a while to set the tents up and by the time we had set the tents up, it was pitch dark. We went to get some food and then at long last got some rest for the big day that followed.

We were woken up at 7:30 by Oscar to find that we had left the flap open over the tent, and it had been raining heavily and the rain had entered the tent. Our belongings were soaked, but at least *we* were dry, for now. My first race wasn't until 10:30, which was the Boys D K2 500m. I was in a Regina with Tom Tozer, and we managed to qualify for the finals but ended up last. Later on we had the k4 500m and then at the



end of the day I paddled my cyclone in the K1 500m. Throughout the day it was pouring down with rain but there was a friendly atmosphere among the wey paddlers. We ended of the day with a tasty club barbeque.....until the rain came down once more!

We woke up the next day to find that instead of water soaking our tent, the tent was drenched with mud. Despite this, we still left the campsite to the race site with our heads high, anticipating a great day. We had the same races today only instead of 500m, they were 1000m, but I found the 1000m easier than the 500m. The day was better than yesterday; it was sunny for most of the day except for during lunch time when there was heavy rain and wind. We had a K4 race during lunchtime. Because I was steering, I found it very hard to keep the boat from sliding to other lanes because of the strong cross-wind, getting into the start bucket was a hand-full as well. We ended the day at about 5.00pm and took our happy memories back from Nottingham. The weekend was over; Wey had achieved many victories.



It took us about 2 hours to get back to Guildford and throughout the journey we all talked about our exciting experiences up in Nottingham. I didn't capsize at all and neither did Tom Tozer, but little can be said about the other two. Tom Ng fell out once in the K2 ten minutes before his race and Oscar fell out a staggering 3 times! I would definitely recommend anyone who hasn't yet been to Nottingham to go. It's great fun (yes really!) and it doesn't matter if you don't win. At the MacGregor Paddle competition, for just participating, you get one point for the club: and one point can mean everything from coming 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup>. So come on other Wey beginners, get yourself to the next Nottingham Regatta in April. You've got all winter to train! *John Russell*

# Wey Christmas dinner



## booking form

Full name:

Telephone number:

Ticket(s)

£18.50 Senior:

£14.50 Junior:

Cheques payable to 'Wey Kayak Club'  
Return booking form and payment to:  
Mrs J. Simmons,  
56 Weyside Road,  
Guildford,  
Surrey  
GU1 1HX

All entries after November 30th must  
pay the late entry fee of £2