

## Cumbria Canoeists AGM Thirlspot Thirlmere, 23/01/03

### Present:

Nick Mortimer	Mick Waplington.	Keith Morris,
Steve Farthing	Nigel Timmins.	Tim Mather
Liz Farthing	Sue Simpson	Matt Ellis,
Andy Plimmer	Sonia Simpson	Joe Alexandre
Colin Litton	Roger Ward	Phil Redshaw
Alan Wynmclean	Mike and Dave Tinion	John Crosbie
Paul Kelly	Pam Andrews	Stuart Millar
Heather Prince	Mark Davies	

**Apologies:** from Mike Sunderland, Sue Richardson, Annie Jukes, John Greener, Jim Wilson, Pete Dillon, Ben Daines, Jonathon Hyde, Allan Alldred, Ann Hurst, Dave Crossland, John Platt, Tony Kavanagh.

Roger Ward (chairman) started the meeting by getting everyone to introduce themselves. This was felt necessary, as there was an excellent turnout and a number of new faces. *Well done everyone.*

Minutes from last meeting were approved.

### RCO report.

Update day was very successful especially as we had Liz Mallabon and Bill Taylor from Manchester Metropolitan University to report on the BCU Coaching Review. This has received positive feedback from people attending the day. Richard Ward also ran workshops – it is good to see him supporting the region. 45 people attended and a big thankyou to all presenters. Thanks again to Jim Wilson and Pyranha for their support. The LCO and CCP meetings were held on the same day. Richard Ward gave feedback to the LCO's and helped to clarify their role. He suggested each LCO should try to organise one key event per year. The CCP meeting was positive, as there are such good relations between the people involved. The new calendar of courses will be out soon, check the web site

[www.cumbriacanoeists.org.uk](http://www.cumbriacanoeists.org.uk)

The Cumbria Coaching day - Matt Ellis and Matt Thompson organised canoe coaching on the Brougham to Langwathby section of the Eamont /Eden for 8 people whilst Mike Sunderland and Jack Simpson ran a play boat session on the Lune for 5 people. Thanks to Jim Wilson for the loan of 6 freestyle boats

The RCO also thanked Keith Morris for his valuable work on the web site.

Matt also reported that it is likely that CCP's will notify the BCU they are to run a course and not seek authorisation. Gradually all this information will be on the web site and not in the yearbook.

### CDO report.

Northern region AGM held in December – nothing of vital importance - except Janice was re elected as vice chair, we do need to keep involved as we access our grant from them!!

Action plan has changed to reflect the new BCU development plan. I have changed ours as well. This was presented to the meeting and was accepted. View it on the web site!

Awards for All – We have now bought 6 Wavehoppers at a good price of £318 instead of £425, a marathon C2 - in negotiations with John Platt - and we have enough money left to buy a Lightning and a Fox slalom boat. A K1 will also live on the trailer along with sit and switch C1 paddles. A trailer has been resourced – narrow - to tow behind cars but light and stable price £1200 delivered in 4 or 5 weeks time.

At present it is to be stored free of charge at Derwent Hill, Portinscale. Roger Ward kindly offered free parking for it at Water Park, Coniston so that south Cumbrian clubs can easily access it. Clubs will be notified. NT intends to visit clubs from April onwards on their club nights with the trailer so please -- programme him in. A hire/loan agreement with advice on how to use the boats is being drafted. Cost will be minimal to Cumbria clubs and Centres (if using it on BCU coaching courses) –I suggested £5 to cover repair and replacement. People must pick up trailer themselves or pay NT petrol money to deliver or collect it.

A discussion is ongoing as to what price per boat individuals should pay if they want to rent a boat (Jim Wilson) charges £15 per day per boat and £70 per week. Also what if people outside of Cumbria want to hire it, what will we charge? If you have any views please let NT know.

Nigel also thanked all involved in the Cumbria coaching day. Nigel is trying to trace JR Foster and Miss VA Lewis who paid £15 but did not give a contact address or number? Please contact NT for your cheques.

There were requests for funding from two people Miss J Harper and Mr Jack Simpson, £40 for L2 Coach Training. The meeting agreed to subsidise them.

The BCU are to hold a one day Cumbria Club Forum, sometime in May. Clubs will be emailed directly. We need some help please from people who can run sessions on risk assessment, equity, and duty of care. (NT will run Child Protection and Top club/funding info.)

Note: Please remember there will be no more paper notes of this meeting, unless requested, only via email and it will be posted on the web site. Thanks to Nick for all his help on this. New coaches will be told to go to web site and a link to be set up to note their email address for info.

Stuart Millar is writing an exciting, and thorough, new guidebook for Cumbria and needs some good photos.

Franco Ferrero is also writing an English White Water Guidebook and NT is co-coordinating the Cumbria section. He needs help on the following rivers: Langstrath beck, River Liza, Scandale beck Ambleside, River Dee near Dent, River Wenning, Hindburn, Roeburn, and Artle all near Lancaster, and Barbon beck near Kirby Lonsdale. Contact NT on 017684 80084 if you can help.

### **Notable forthcoming events/competitions.**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March.** Canoe Poling – training in the morning – competition in the afternoon. A fun event culminating in the first canoe poling competition to be held in Britain!!! Contact Nigel Timmins 017684 80084 or e mail [nigel@bcunorth.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:nigel@bcunorth.freeserve.co.uk)

**Canoe Exhibition** March 14-16<sup>th</sup> NEC Birmingham.

**Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>** [Cumbria youth wavehopper race](#). There will be a training event in the morning and a race in the afternoon. Venue - River Derwent at Portinscale, Keswick. Boats provided – just bring a paddle, buoyancy aid, and enthusiasm to try something new. A short race of 800 metres on grade 1 water, open to any age young or old!!!! Just come and have a fun day.

Enter on the day, minimal cost perhaps £2 (to cover cost of prizes) Please phone Nigel Timmins on 017684 80084 to advise on numbers attending.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April**, Youth Wavehopper event at Prudhoe on the Tyne (just beyond Hexham) Same sort of event as above. NT will be going and can take 3 people with boats supplied.

Also similar events at Chester 15<sup>th</sup> June, Goyt Marple Manchester 13<sup>th</sup> September – Finals at the Nene 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**10<sup>th</sup> May** Freestyle intro day at Prudhoe on the Tyne. Austin Lloyd is organising and running it.

**21<sup>st</sup> June** Teeside Talent camp ( a youth come and try it event, where young people can try one of the competition disciplines for the day) Marathon, WW racing, Slalom, Freestyle, Polo. Contact Bobby Timperley on 01434 674014

**Also 21<sup>st</sup> June** Paddlequest North west in Liverpool. A fun day of paddling competitions for young and old. Contact Len Hartley 0151 605 1834.

**July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** Prudhoe Canoe Exhibition - a small scale event, but well supported by Pyranha last year, with loads of boats to try out, plus a great cardboard canoe race, build your own and come and see if you can beat the competition down a short grade 1 / 2 rapid!

**July 12/13<sup>th</sup>** Youth Bellboat and Lightning National Championships at Salford Quays. Open to anyone (particularly popular with scouts and canoe clubs as a team of 8 is required for the bell boat) Normally held in Nottingham – we have fought hard to get it held further North, so please try to send a team or go down to support this great event. Contact Len Hartley on 0151 605 1834.

#### **Other events.**

LCO/RCO conference Nottingham 1<sup>st</sup> March all welcome.

**Coaches Update day** in Yorkshire 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Contact Ian Scott 0114 815 263 0178 (We will hold ours sometime in November of this year)

3<sup>rd</sup> –11 May National Outdoor Week – NOW - coordinated by Go Outdoors and the Outdoor Industries Association - Contact BCU, Richard Ward 0115 982 4219 for further info. You can have your event or open club night advertised for free on their web site if it falls during this week.

#### **Clubs.**

Lakeland had a successful polo lottery bid and are the proud owners of lots of nice new kit! They are now part of the NE league. Their annual polo tournament is on the 14 June for

which they requested and were given a grant of up to £250. The club has a trip to the Alps planned in the summer.

Dallam are busy with people out all over the place. Slalom is popular especially with the youngsters.

Duddon's pool is very busy – they now have a limit of 30 people. There has been lots of activity sea, river, playboat, and more trips are planned.

W Cumbria's pool session was threatened after a massive jump in hire charges. A new owner at Derwentwater Maria may also affect their operation. A full summer programme is planned.

**Access.** An access meeting was held in November with Chris Hawksworth attending from BCU HQ.

The Brighton study was highlighted and its helpfulness to paddlers. Over 2 million people now canoe per year (there are fewer anglers than this). DEFRA have asked the BCU for 6 rivers to trial an access agreement on – they are all down south – but good luck to them!! Over 80 MP's signed an early day motion in parliament asking the government to consider access on rivers. CROW act maps are doing the rounds at present – check them out as this is our opportunity to ensure we reinstate access to a river e.g. at an old ford. Also OS want to put access points and canoeing Centres onto maps so keep them informed if you want this to happen.

Colin Litten outlined his view of access on Cumbrian rivers. He sees a number of different access demands. Centres, university groups etc. need access agreements on certain rivers to meet their demands. Many other people just operate in small groups of 3 or 4 and will paddle whatever – agreement or no agreement!! We therefore need to concentrate our efforts on those rivers that have access agreements like the Eden, Greta, Crake, Eamont to satisfy the demands of those using these rivers.

Insurance is becoming a big issue as a number of riparian owners are saying only BCU members can paddle, as they are the only ones who have suitable liability insurance.

River Eden - George Parr is designing steps to go in at Lazonby with a £1000 grant from BCU.

River Sprint – an incident occurred – There was a discussion about the best access point - it being up by the church where there is parking and the river is adjacent.

Kent - at Burnside an angry woman accosted a group saying they couldn't launch. It turns out it is a Millennium Green funded by the lottery and access must be maintained.

Lower Lune – There was some comment that it is a poor agreement as it restricts group size to 8 and cannot be paddle on successive days. It is at least a chink into access on this restricted and yet popular river. Please work with Andy Clifford the access officer.

Rothay at Pelter bridge - some problems, but this has existed for some time?

The Environment Agency at Penrith has appointed a new Recreation Officer - Jo Barnett. Colin talked to her but it does not look too promising at the moment? She has a strong commitment to fishing but was interested in access for disabled people. If you have a site that you would like to see some development work for disabled people to be able to launch a

canoe, then get in contact with her. Colin highlighted that canoeists would like information about fishing e.g. close fishing season for rivers, where the reds are (Spawning grounds for salmon) He suggested it would be good to get someone to talk at the next update day. NT to investigate.

Mick Waplington presented the accounts. Thanks to him for this - they were accepted.

NT proposed a vote of thanks for Colin Litten for his excellent work as Regional Access Officer. He is now stepping down and Mark Davies (OB Ullswater) has very kindly offered to take up the reins. Colin outlined the role as two parts: 1/ Representation on local bodies like EA, National Park, National trust, County landowners association, etc attend 2 national meetings per year in Nottingham (expenses are paid) co ordinate a team of volunteers. 2/ Deal with any access incidents on rivers as they occur – can be fairly time consuming!

**Election of posts.** No nominations - so all were re-elected. Though the present incumbents are happy to be re-elected, I trust next year we will see people willing to take on some of the roles (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, etc). If people know they only have to do the job for 2 or 3 years then it makes life easier for everyone and hopefully people will volunteer to help out. Come on team we need you!!

# Next meeting 7:30 pm June 11<sup>th</sup> at St Bees, Seacote Hotel,

(meet for more excellent surfing at 5:30 to 6pm. We have had meets here with superb surf) West Cumbria canoe club may well provide chips for us!!