

## **Minutes from meeting of Cumbria Canoeists held at St Bees on 25th May 2004.**

### **Present:**

Nick Mortimer, Nigel Timmins. Sue Simpson, Jack Simpson, Alastair Yates, Roger Ward, Gareth Field. John Crosbie, Rob Blackwell, Pete Knowles, Tim Taylor, Steve Randles, Neil Mackay, Roy Garriock, Pete Carter, Matt Ellis.

**Apologies:** from Dorine Botteril, Mike Tinion, Mark Davies, Ian Wilson, and Joe Stalker.

**Minutes from last meeting** were approved proposed by Nick Mortimer and seconded by Alistair Yates.

**RCO report** - Matt Ellis.

Tom Sibbald has left YMCA Lakeside and has now gone freelance. He is well qualified at L5 Canoe L4 Kayak and L3 Sea. He is a BCU Contracted Provider and will hopefully be a Coaching Process presenter shortly.

Getting a constant stream of assessors coming through.

Don't forget the Ullswater race on the 11th July 2004. Please support this Cumbria event.

Also for your diary - James Raffyn the biographer of Bill Mason will be speaking at Rheged on the evening of the 1st October 2004.

Another article in code Top tips for coaches - look out for it.

Calendar of courses 2004 is out and is included on the web site [www.cumbriacanoists.org.uk](http://www.cumbriacanoists.org.uk)

**CDO report** - Nigel Timmins.

Report is related to items on the Action plan (also to be found on the web site as per above)

Visit to clubs with trailer offered but few clubs have expressed an interest Please contact me if you would like to see Nigel and the Cumbria trailer visit your club or centre. E mail [nigelt@bcu.org.uk](mailto:nigelt@bcu.org.uk)

Trailer has been out 6 times this year 2004.

Wavehopper race held at Carlisle was very successful. A beautiful day with some fun racing and for the odd person swimming!!

Talent camp at Teesside is to take place on June 6th 2004  
email [bobby@tfrankham.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:bobby@tfrankham.fsnet.co.uk)

There was a request for funding from Gareth Field for Level 5 coach training/assessment. £75 was agreed by the meeting. (Proposed by John Crosbie and seconded by Matt Ellis.) Also NT to write out a proposal whereby these requests for funding by coaches be processed by NT and simply report them to these meetings - proposed by John Crosbie. To be Actioned by next meeting.

Please note that the Disability day in the NE is now on - July 3rd 2004.

Lazonby steps is still going ahead. A letter has been written to Parish Council saying we will cover minor maintenance. Costs have gone up but - £500 is to be given by the NE Region and £500 by the NW region - propose that we also give £500. Approved and accepted - John proposed and seconded by Pete Knowles.

Canoe Polo event happened in May 2004 no report yet from Tim Mather.

Finance - It is unclear at the moment how the BCU/Cumbria accounts will now operate - we have a 'big' instruction sheet from BCU. We will need to note VAT returns 4 times a year!! -- No money was reserved in the BCU budget for Cumbria when it was put together last October 2003. NT is pursuing, but worst case scenario is that we might get a reduced subsidy or non at all, till next year when we will get a back payment? Next meeting NT to update people

National Bell Boat Championships are being held at Nottingham 24th September 2004. Bell boats and Lightnings will be provided, for free. Mixed teams of 4 boys and 4 girls are encouraged though any team can enter. U11, U14, and U16 are the categories. Entry fee £40 per team or £5 per individual. Lots of prizes, lots of fun, please try to attend.

Paddlequest Liverpool 26th June 2004 a youth event being organised in conjunction with the Commonwealth games at Salford Quays, Manchester. Contact Len Hartley tel. 0151 605 1834 or email seapaddlerone@aol.com

### **Access**

Lower Derwent

John Crosbie is the BCU River Adviser and he has been able to set up a working party with Castlegate Fisheries, The Environment Agency, National Trust, National Park, English Nature and the BCU. An agreement is imminent though not finally agreed yet. Basically it will allow us to paddle down the Derwent from Bassenthwaite Lake to the sea, so long as the river is over a certain height (this height is not ridiculous and the Environment Agency said that last winter the river was above this level for over half the time) from 1st November till the 31st January and from Isel bridge to the sea from 1st Feb till the 31st May. No canoeing to take place between 1st June and 31st October.

This is an amazing agreement giving us 7 months of the year when we could have access to this river and John is to be congratulated in negotiating it.

There is of course a big concern over Workington weir, as the agreement will affect this. ie. no paddling on it from 1st June till the 31st October and we request that people stay off the weir from now to ensure no problems ensue with acceptance of this agreement. Though this is restrictive to playboaters we never in the past had any permission to paddle here, so to now have an official agreement must be seen as a step forward. Hopefully after one year of this agreement working trouble free, we might then be in a position to negotiate a deal for more time at the weir.

This working group has worked well and it is noted that other rivers in the 'Derwent catchment' might also be dealt with in a similar way e.g. the Cocker and middle/upper Derwent. The Greta is also to be included as Keswick anglers are not happy with things at present and we will need to address this soon. If we can be seen to police ourselves then we are likely to greatly increase access to rivers in the Northern Lakes - please try to make this work. Full details will be given at the next meeting when Castlegate Fisheries and the working party will have properly ratified the agreement. Roger proposed a vote of thanks to John for all his hard work in this.

Nick M then noted some access issues.

Back in January looked at debris in Rawthey near Cautley Spout, which looked like remains of former horse fence across river. River swept it aside. But the nearby 'horse riding' farm may attempt stronger rebuild. Keep Rawthey river liaison officer informed.

A report from Mark Davies was read out by Matt Ellis and is recorded here:

Ø Busy few months with 40 different email requests for information, and about the same number of telephone conversations. Roughly 70/30 split between rivers and lakes. Only one snail mail letter.

Ø I am using the [www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk](http://www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk) to share information with a wider public, as well as putting stuff onto the Cumbria Canoeists site.

Ø LDNP Management plan has been published. Can be viewed at [www.lake-district.gov.uk](http://www.lake-district.gov.uk). It has a lifespan of 10 years but will be reviewed in 2009.

Ø Smolt traps are in place on the Leven (downstream of A590) and Troutbeck (downstream of Calgarth Bridge). This should not affect paddlers if they get out at the garage or Troutbeck Bridge swimming pool. There is a sign at the put in. For further information please see the Cumbria Canoeists website.

Ø Support the Rivers Access Campaign [www.riversaccess.org](http://www.riversaccess.org) A co-ordinated approach to secure better access to our rivers. Please check out the site for updates to the campaign.

In common with the Rivers Access Campaign is the Brighton Report. The findings are with the Minister and in acknowledging the publication of this information, the British Canoe Union has stated:  
"It is pleased that the findings of the Countryside Agency for the feasibility study are with Rt Hon Alun Michael MP. We wait with interest to hear the Minister's decisions on the recommendations. The BCU are actively encouraging the response to be forthcoming soonest."

The CA documents will also be posted on both the BCU and Rivers Access Campaign web sites. A downloadable copy of the full Countryside Agency report will be available from Monday 24 May 2004 on the website: [www.countryside.gov.uk/WiderWelcome/Countryside\\_Recreation/recreationalActivities/waterSports](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/WiderWelcome/Countryside_Recreation/recreationalActivities/waterSports)

The CA has problems getting this information on the site.

Ø Still waiting to hear from Friends of the Lake District re: The Brathay / land ownership claims by new local resident.

Ø Concerns over whether the two new guides have increased river usage. There doesn't seem to be any hard statistical evidence, but the issue seems to be being used by some people to the discredit of paddling. More worrying is the apparent use of the guidebooks by some people saying "look, it says in here we can paddle this / get out here"!! Please make people aware that guides only show what's physically possible. They never give permission to paddle!!

Ø Eden Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS). Has been suspended, as the computer software they are using does not take account of lakes within river systems? Not that good for using in the Lake District then?!! The steering group should be re-convened in November 2004 when they have found something that will work

Ø Eden steps - are in the final process. Awaiting final confirmation of responsibility letters to be exchanged. Will hopefully be in place by mid summer ready for next season. BCU will take responsibility for irreversible damage / being swept away, with Cumbria Canoeists monitoring for day-to-day maintenance. Could volunteers who would be happy to be called to remove debris or the like please contact Mark.

Ø River Derwent access agreement negotiations. John Crosbie to inform meeting of developments.

Ø River Irthing. Please do not use the field on river right just before the bridge in Gilsland. The farmer has major concerns over access / liability / damage to property. There is a possible egress just after the houses start on the left bank where there is a confluence with a small stream. Land at the confluence and a small path leads up to a phone box by the bridge in the centre of the village. This bridge is between the Bridge Inn and the post office.  
Better egress altogether is to continue down to the picnic spot much further down.

Ø Burneside Millennium Green. Concerns over use of the green:

- A) Damage to the green itself by people dragging boats
- B) Damage to fending by people dragging boats over
- C) Liability / litigation as their insurance only covers general public use, not sporting activity. I am working with Chris Hawkesworth on this one.
- D) Poor parking. Safety concerns

I met the Millennium Green Committee who expressed serious concerns over paddlers using the green. They would rather we don't!

Ø As usual Local River Advisors required for: The Kent, Mint, and Sprint. Any volunteers?

Ø Does anyone want to organise another clean up day this year on a river of his or her choice. Last years one on the Eamont was a great success and it would be good to try to do a different river each year? If you have any ideas please contact RAO.

Ø Request for information from Cheshire police about the body found in the river at Kendal if anyone has any information they may find useful please contact. I lost the number but Nigel should have it?

Mark Davies  
Regional Access Officer - Cumbria  
cumbriaaccess@aol.com  
07734 923195

### **Clubs.**

Copeland: Pool is still active but due to price rises more people are need to attend on Tuesdays. A trip to France is planned for the summer and a sea trip to Oban. Club entered the Wavehopper event at Carlisle with considerable success and have booked the region's trailer for an evening in the summer.

Dallam: regular trips with the Tweed and Spey, being attempted. A good summer programme is planned - please see their web site. [www.dallam.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.dallam.cumbria.sch.uk)

West Cumbria: CST training took place over the winter with the assessment to be carried out soon. This is available to others if they are interested. Membership has increased and safety at the club night has been addressed with the use of a 'duty officer' on a club night and a set of basic rules.

### **AOB**

Berners, new pool in Grange-over-Sands would like to have canoeing sessions, as it's flush sided. Management is for the idea. Just need kayaks and kit. Can anyone loan them some kayaks for a few weeks? They can store them securely. Berners intend to buy their own and run their own sessions, eventually. Contact Berners.

The website is used a lot and it would be good for clubs to have a link on it. Please contact Keith Morris [www.cumbriacanoers.org.uk](http://www.cumbriacanoers.org.uk). He also needs information to go on the website, preferably as a 'Word' document. Please supply useful Items such as events or club news and/or trips etc.

Please help him and make our site interesting and informative.

Please, please if you have not done so, get your name and email to Nick Mortimer BCU Cumbria SE LCO so that this newsletter can be sent via email to you.  
Just email with details of your email address to [CumbCanoeNewsLtr@onetel.com](mailto:CumbCanoeNewsLtr@onetel.com)

Next meeting 7:30 pm, 16th September 2004, Kings Head, Thirlspot, Thirlmere,  
(Meet for some paddling on Thirlmere at 5pm - Cumbria Trailer to be available so no need to bring a boat?)