

NEWS LETT ER

VOLUME 3
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2013

The success of this newsletter relies on contributions from **YOU!** If you've been on a trip, in a race, or just have an opinion or some news you want to share, please send it to newsletter@maidstonecanoeclub.net. Articles should be short (between 100 and 250 words) and can be accompanied by a picture. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is 10th May, 2013.



Mark Corti, Editor
newsletter@maidstonecanoeclub.net

10%
DISCOUNT
FOR CLUB
MEMBERS



New House Farm, Kemsing Road
Wrotham, TN15 7BU
Tel: 01732 886688

Open 10am - 5pm Tues - Sat
Late Night Opening Wednesday
www.kentcanoes.com



From the Chairman

After the snow, the deluge?

Although for some the water has been high, muddy and uninviting, paddlers from the club have been out and about, braving the cold, and the fast water. Hardy souls have been consistently paddling on Wednesday evenings, and have had some wonderful weather, still and, relatively, warm. For those of you wishing and waiting for warmer weather, there is no need to give up on paddling altogether. A series of winter evening entertainments has been considerably planned by me, to get you down to the clubhouse. If you missed the Romans on the Medway, delivered by Simon Elliott, you missed a good evening. Forty plus people were there to find out about what the Romans did for us and the Medway, a fascinating and informative session. By the time you read this it is likely the second in the series will have been held, looking at a history of the Maidstone CC,

from its inception at Parkwood, Maidstone, through the water based clubhouse, a dumb barge used for transporting kaolin to the paper mills on the Medway, to the site hut from the Thames Barrier, to the present salubrious building we have, using film and slides.

Hopefully, this newsletter will predate the last in the series for this year, to which you are ALL invited, a look at sea paddling with MCC Honorary Life Member, Geoff Hunter (who now lives in North Wales) and other past and present club members, with film and slides from around the world. Refreshments (including beer from the Dockyard Brewery) will be available to make for a sociable, educative, and entertaining evening. I hope to see you all there.

Paul Newman, Club Chairman
chair@maidstonecanoeclub.net



Cambridge Winter Series

Felix Collins came first, even after taking a swim! Duncan Moon 3rd, Tom Collins 4th, Leanne Brown 1st, Aaron Jordan 4th, and Richard Clark 8th place. Well done to all, a very difficult river and flood conditions to contend with. Adam and Dean both retired - not good for the coach!

By Dean Jordan

Paul: Well, predominantly still on the Medway, flat water, but as much white water as I can get!

Mark: What's been your most memorable trip in your paddling career so far?

Paul: Probably the most memorable trip would be the River Tees, because it was a massive step up from some of the other rivers we normally do on a yearly basis, like the Dart, the Usk. The Tees has got bigger features, bigger water, and it pushes you,

cont'd on page 2 ...

Meet a paddler

We caught up with one of the Club's whitewater weekend warriors, Paul Hignall, on a chilly winter's day at the Lee Valley Whitewater Course.

Mark: So how long have you been paddling?

Paul: Three and a half years

Mark: And what kind of paddling do you mostly do?



Club AGM
22nd March

The Club AGM will be held on March 22nd at 6pm. As usual, all Club members are warmly encouraged to attend - this is your chance to have your say about how YOUR club will be run over the next 12 months, and choose who will be running it!

Meet a paddler

... cont'd from page 1

pushes you more, whereas you tend to become quite used to the rivers we regularly paddle, because you know the features – you know what's coming next. The Tees – good river!

Mark: Do you have a favourite piece of paddling kit that you wouldn't be without on the river?

Paul: My favourite bit of kit is my buoyancy aid! Because if you get into trouble ... I've gone for a high-end one – on the Medway, it's not a problem, but when you get onto some of the bigger rivers, the buoyancy aid to me is the most important piece of kit.

Mark: And finally, where do you see yourself, paddling-wise, in five years time?

Paul: I'd like to be comfortable on the rivers we paddle regularly. At the moment I'm not, not on all of them! So that's where I'd like to be in five years.



By Paul Hignall and Mark Corti *It's all about looking good! Paul Hignall in colour-matched boat, paddle & hat on another epic MCC trip.*

A Medway Tour

Four intrepid Maidstone paddlers paddled down from Tonbridge, Blackfriars car park, on a coldish day with a south easterly breeze and gentle rain.

A bold initiative on their behalf, which took them away from the pond outside the club to, for one at least, an entirely different stretch of our home river. The canoe pass at Town Lock in Maidstone was running, and boded well for the other canoe passes on the way down.

The only unknown, was the state of the pound above Sluice weir, where the EA had posted notice that they would be dropping water levels for maintenance. It might have been a muddy carry around the sluice. If you are down at the club on a coming Sunday, ask around for the paddlers who did the trip, and find out what the river is like when the level is dropped.

By Paul Newman

chairman@maidstonecanoeclub.net

Maidstone Canoe Club Goes Bowling

Brian, Norman Brookes, Geoff Orford, Paul Newman, Mick Wibrew and Jane,

Mick Bowles and Linda, Paul and Carol Gillat, Dean Jordan and Aneta Drag, Chris and Jane Moon. The results were 1st Mick Wibrew scoring 110 points, Joint 2nd Brian (Steve's son) and Norman Brooks each scoring 107 points, and 3rd Chris Moon scoring

102 points.

Apologies if I have got anyone's names wrong, and thank you for joining in. Watch this space for the next event!

Jane Addy

secretary@maidstonecanoeclub.net



Dart Trip
15-17 March

The Dart is a beautiful Grade III river in Devon and is a favourite for club trips. Depending on levels and participants, we'll be paddling both the Upper and the Loop. Contact mark@maidstonecanoeclub.net or see a coach for details.



Winter Talk: Sea Paddling and First Circumnavigations 7th March, 7:30pm

Geoff Hunter, sea paddler extraordinaire, record holder and Hon. Life Member of Maidstone Canoe Club presents his circumnavigations of England and Iceland with film and anecdotes. Supported by Ian Bourn, long time sea paddler, veteran of the Western Isles of Scotland, and excellent photographer.

Michael Wibrew presenting his round Britain and Ireland paddle; Geoff Orford round the South West and Scottish Coast; Paul Newman solo North Coast of Jamaica.

A very rare opportunity to see and hear an active group of local sea paddlers, and maybe gain some ideas for future paddles. Please let Paul Newman, chairman@maidstonecanoeclub.net know if you plan to come.

There will be a local brew available, plus the usual refreshments of tea, coffee, soft drinks and edible nibbles. Cost: £2.

committee Meet a paddler

Famously reserved, taciturn & shy, Dean Jordan is the driving force behind the Maidstone racing team. In this exclusive interview, we persuaded him to give us a brief glimpse into the life of this reclusive and retiring Club paddler.

Mark: So, how long have you been paddling?

Dean: Since I was 9, and I'm 44 – no, 54! I got into racing, and from then on I really got competitive at about 11 years old, a bit like Felix [one of our junior racers]. Went up through the rankings, lots of silly things – DW [Devizes to Westminster race] three times as a junior, won the Scout class, came second and third I think in the juniors. And then did the seniors, carried on, lots of DWs, lots of training for DWs, lots of coaching. I've had just about every place in the top ten in the DW, apart from first! That still eludes me, too old for it now! I still hold the 1000-mile club record – out of eight finishes [in the DW] I average 19 hours and 1 minute, so I'm still winning that at silly old age! I'm in the 1000-mile club with 5 other members of Maidstone Canoe Club, which is quite an achievement – I think there's only fifty members, so it's not bad going. I still do all my coaching, obviously, and I still try to race – I'm not as good as I used to be, not as fit. If you're coaching, you can't race. But Brian will say, I'll race you, and I'll do it, I'll race him. And I'll beat him, it doesn't matter how fit he is and how much he does, I'll beat him because I won't let him beat me! I will sit on his wash and I won't do anything, and I'll just sit there! But there are some bloody good paddlers out there. I got into the veteran class when I was 35, started racing veterans. I've always

done sprinting, I've always been ranked up there. I've been ranked in Div 1, I stayed up there until I was about 42, 43. At 37 years old I was still racing against the best of the best, against Pat Terry, which was brilliant. It's just sort of ticking over now, more coaching than anything. Probably
cont'd on page 4 ...



Proud members of the Maidstone Racing Team showing off an impressive number of medals.

Waterside 1 and Waterside B Race Results

Aaron Jordan in K1 finished in 3rd place after a good team effort!

A wet, windy and very muddy day. Well done to the support team - Leanne Brown, Mick Wybrev and Dean Jordan. A well earned pint at the finish for the support team!

Waterside B - another good race to take a second place in an 18 miler on the Kennett and Avon canal this weekend gaining an excellent second place, closing the gap on the series by just under three minutes. Aaron is in second place in the series with 2 more races to go, the 23 miler and then the 35 miler from Devizes to Newbury. Well done and keep it up Aaron!!

By Dean Jordan



Scotland Sea Paddle 23rd-31st May

This year's Scotland Sea trip will be in the Arisaig area where we have been for the past few years. This area offers some reasonably sheltered paddling and some great camping spots. The trip is open to anyone with reasonable paddling experience but not necessarily any experience on the sea. We don't go there for strenuous paddling but to enjoy the scenery, wildlife and environment. If you fancy going but do not have a suitable kayak there is still one club sea kayak available (canoes are also ok but a bit more restrictive on the water conditions). If you would like to go please let Geoff, memsec@maidstonecanoeclub.net know.



Youthful hi-jinks - the racing Dream Team of Dean Jordan and Mick Wibrew scrumping apples in the 1980s.

... cont'd from page 3

the achievements that now I'm getting is with the youngsters – everybody that I've coached, all the youngsters that I've taught from getting in the boat, has got up to Boys A standard. Bannister, Sam, Tom Kingston, Aaron – there's 6 altogether. Obviously Aaron got to Boys A and went into Mens B, but he's not a sprinter and we don't expect that from him.

Those are probably my best achievements.

Mark: So what kind of distance do you usually race over?

Dean: I'm still, at the moment, doing over A, but it depends what race you're doing. My distance has gone down over the years because I've dropped down, and I'll paddle with Tina, or Flossie, I'll just get in a boat with anybody – if someone wants to have a paddle, I'll get in a boat and have a paddle. I'm not as competitive as I used to be, but I still like to beat them! That's the thing – if you

were to say to me, "let's have a paddle", all right, we're sitting there at the start, and I think "come on then, let's go", it's like a red rag to a bull, it's in me, it's in the blood to paddle! I spent many a year training down on the tidal stretch of the Medway, from 14 to probably 34, I trained down there a lot because I lived there and it was walkable. I'd put my K1 on my shoulder and run down the road and I'd paddle. I'd paddle from Motney Hill up to Gillingham Reach, up to Rochester on a good day, weather permitting, in a K1, on my own, on a regular basis. But that's the sort of thing you need to do, if you're going to go anywhere, you've got to do it. That's the long and the short of it, really. And I still enjoy it. I will help anybody out that I can, and I will push them, because there is no limit – there is no limit.

Mark: So out of all that stuff, what's been your best achievement, what's been most memorable?

Dean: Well, I've done a lot of white water

in the past, it's been good, it's been fun. Slalom – I was a Div 2 slalom paddler. The one race that does stick out in my mind was probably one of the Thamesides, probably fifteen years ago with Pat Terry, and we shouldn't even have been ranked, but we were up there, in it, we were racing against Ivan Lawler in his prime, and the best of them, the Wells brothers. We won the combined races, and we came 7th in the actual British Championships. Which we shouldn't have done – we were two 37-year olds! That's one race which really sticks out in my mind. Obviously the DWs – every one you finish is just a big tear-jerker. It doesn't matter who you are and what you are, you see that Battersea Power Station and you come round the corner and you think, yes, this is it! And it doesn't matter who you are or how hard you are, you can get to there .. I think my best all-round paddle was when I paddled with Flossie – Caroline – and we did 18:36 in the DW. For a

cont'd on page 5 ...

mixed crew – we worked hard for it – we trained hard – but we had a bloody good laugh and we had a good paddle. And I should imagine that she's the hardest paddler – and I mean hard – not the hardest person to paddle with, but she's bloody hard – and she didn't whinge at all. And that annoyed me a bit! There was me popping painkillers and saying "I'm all right!". But I think that was the most outstanding achievement that I shall achieve, was with Flossie. I can't remember where we came – it was in the top ten, I believe, I think it was seventh or eighth. And there was getting a second place with Mick [Wibrew] and a

third place with Mick, that's up there with the best of them. And you get your downers, where you don't finish. I've only ever not finished once because of me, and that was when I paddled with Ian Bourne, he was an old boy. And we got to Marlow and I just couldn't go on. That was probably the most hurtful one, because it was just a sickener. We'd done a lot of training and we should have done all right, but we lost an hour and a half just getting to Marlow on what we had been doing.

Just to keep going as long as we can, and keep youngsters coming on, and keep paddling correctly and efficiently is my aim still.

Mark: What about on the committee? What are your roles & responsibilities there?

Dean: I've been all kinds of things on the committee over the past 20, 30 years. I've probably been on the committee 30 years! I've been the chair, I've done everything to general dogsbody! I prefer it like that, I don't want to be tied down with too many positions. I'm only on the committee to see what's going on! I want the Club to keep going, and young blood to turn up.

By Mark Corti & Dean Jordan

Featured Upcoming Events

Please see the website for full details of these and other upcoming events, trips, tours & training.

Sunday, March 3rd: Away paddle to Yalding

There are rowing races going on outside the Club all day today, so we'll be taking our usual paddle up to Yalding with as many boats as we can carry.

Thursday, March 7th: Winter Talk - "Sea Paddling and First Circumnavigations"

A rare opportunity to hear Club members Geoff Hunter, Ian Bourn, Geoff Orford, Mick Wibrew and Paul Newman talk about their sea paddling exploits, from Iceland to Jamaica and all points between. See website for full details.

Friday, March 22nd: Annual General Meeting

Club AGM. All members are warmly encourage to attend and help steer the Club through the next 12 months.

Sunday, March 31st: Clocks Go Forward

The extra light means paddling on Wednesday evenings is even better! Throw off the stresses of work with a cheeky midweek paddle.

Saturday, March 9th and May 18th: 2* Course

Training only. Assessments on March 16th, April 13th and May 25th. Please contact Lee Horton, lee@maidstonecanoe.net to book your place.

Friday, March 15th - Sunday, 17th March: Dart Trip

Club trip to Devon, paddling the beautiful Dart Loop and hopefully the Upper Dart. Contact mark@maidstonecanoeclub.net for details.

Saturday, March 16th and April 13th: Pool Session

At Larkfield as usual. Please remember to clean your boats! Capsize, recovery and rolling coaching all available on request.

Saturday, March 30th: Aquatic First Aid Level 1 Course

A useful course for everyone who paddles, and mandatory for coaches working unsupervised. Run by Lee Horton, lee@maidstonecanoeclub.net

Saturday, April 20th and May 4th: 1* Course

Training & assessment for the BCU 1* Award. See Lee Horton for details.

Thursday, May 23rd - Friday, 31st May: Scotland Sea Paddling

Sea paddling and wild camping in the beautiful Arisaig area of Western Scotland. A stunning part of the world. Contact Geoff Orford, memsec@maidstonecanoeclub.net if you're considering this trip.

Sunday, May 26th - Saturday, 1st June: Bulgarian Whitewater

The little-known rivers of Bulgaria are the destination for this excellent-value whitewater trip. Costs, including professional guide and flights, are around £360 - contact Tony, tknizov@yahoo.co.uk for details.

Cut-Out-And-Keep Calendar - March

◀ February		March 2013			April ▶	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
Porters Lock Lowering						
				18:30 Race Training		09:30 Rowing Races
						09:30 Race Training
						09:30 Regular Paddle - Yaliding, No Beginners Please
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Porters Lock Lowering		17:30 Regular Paddle	19:30 Winter Talk: Sea Paddling and First Circumnavigations	18:30 Race Training	08:45 Two Star Course	09:30 Regular Paddle
Eldridges Lock Lowering						
18:30 Race training		18:30 Race training				09:30 Race Training
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Eldridges Lock Lowering		17:30 Regular Paddle		Dart Trip		
Town Lock Lowering					08:45 Two Star Course	09:30 Regular Paddle
18:30 Race training		18:30 Race training		18:30 Race Training	20:00 Pool Session - With Demo Day from Kent Canoes	09:30 Race Training
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
18:30 Race training		17:30 Regular Paddle		18:30 Race Training		09:30 Regular Paddle
		18:30 Race training		20:00 Annual General Meeting		09:30 Race Training
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
18:30 Race training		17:30 Regular Paddle		18:30 Race Training	08:45 B.C.U Aquatic first aid level 1 course	09:30 Regular Paddle
		18:30 Race training				09:30 Race Training

Cut-Out-And-Keep Calendar - April

◀ March		April 2013			May ▶	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 18:30 Race training	2	3 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	4	5 18:30 Race Training	6	7 09:30 Regular Paddle 09:30 Race Training
8 18:30 Race training	9	10 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	11	12 18:30 Race Training	13 10:00 Two Star Assessment day 20:00 Pool session	14 09:30 Regular Paddle 09:30 Race Training
15 18:30 Race training	16	17 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	18	19 18:30 Race Training	20 08:45 One Star Course	21 09:30 Regular Paddle 09:30 Race Training
22 18:30 Race training	23	24 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	25	26 18:30 Race Training	27	28 09:30 Regular Paddle 09:30 Race Training
29 18:30 Race training	30	1	2	3	4	5

Club Contacts & Committee

Paul Newman (Chairman)
chairman@maidstonecanoecub.net

Brian Marston (Vice Chairman)
vice-chair@maidstonecanoecub.net

Jane Addy (Secretary)
secretary@maidstonecanoecub.net

Geoff Orford (Treasurer, Membership Secretary)
memsec@maidstonecanoecub.net

Leanne Brown (Racing Bosun, Marathon Co-ordinator)
bosun-racing@maidstonecanoecub.net
marathon@maidstonecanoecub.net

Richard Clark (General Paddling Bosun)
bosun-gp@maidstonecanoecub.net

Lee Horton (First Aid Officer)
first-aid@maidstonecanoecub.net

Catherine Dacey, Dean Jordan (Welfare Officers)
welfare@maidstonecanoecub.net

Suggestions for the committee can also be made at suggestions@maidstonecanoecub.net and will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Bill Norman (Coaching Development Group)
cdg@maidstonecanoecub.net

Mark Corti (Newsletter, Website)
newsletter@maidstonecanoecub.net
web@maidstonecanoecub.net

Other Committee Members:

Andrea Head

Mick Wibrew

Norman Brooks

Cut-Out-And-Keep Calendar - May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	1 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	2	3 18:30 Race Training	4 08:45 One Star Course	5 09:30 Regular Paddle 09:30 Race Training
6 18:30 Race training	7	8 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	9	10 18:30 Race Training	11 20:00 Pool Session	12 09:30 Regular Paddle 09:30 Race Training
13 18:30 Race training	14	15 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	16	17 18:30 Race Training	18 08:45 Two Star Course	19 09:30 Regular Paddle - With Demo Day from Kent Canoes 09:30 Race Training 09:30 Kent Canoes Demo Day
20 18:30 Race training	21	22 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	23 20:00 Scotland Sea Paddle		25 08:45 Two Star Course	26 Bulgaria Trip 09:30 Race Training 09:30 Regular Paddle
27 20:00 Scotland Sea Paddle Bulgaria Trip 18:30 Race training	28	29 17:30 Regular Paddle 18:30 Race training	30	31 18:30 Race Training	1	2