

Bradford and Bingley Canoe Club Fairnilee/Tully Trip

17th August - 27th August 2007

Fri: - Anne, the Booths, the Beldersons and the Mannings all arrived at Fairnilee safely and managed to set up camp in the dry. In the afternoon Anne took her dogs, Moss and Kelly, for a walk in Glentress forest. Glentress is a wonderful place for mountain biking. After eating we sat around talking and watching the fly zapper zapping midges: encouraging the “big ones” to fly into the light!! George arrived with Greenstar. Overnight it rained heavily.

Sat: - Jane and Alice’s tent had leaked and Alice’s clock was full of water. In general, spirits were not high. Anne went and sorted out for judging whilst Jane and Jan watched the rest practice. Everyone achieved some good results. Unfortunately Linda swam at the Horseshoe on practice. Weather not good all day so Linda, Roxanne, Jane and Alice decided to find a B&B for the evening and then went home. Rest sat under Anne’s awning and played cards. Rained even more overnight!

Sun: - Everything very wet. Anne went to organise a stint for judging and it was agreed that as soon as the boys had had their second run we would leave for Tully. River was much higher and rising all the time. Everything was packed in the rain and Jan had had enough. Boys decided to do only one run so we were able to leave by 1300hrs. It was so muddy at the field entrance that Anne bottled out and asked Brian from Greenstar to drive the car and caravan out for her: We still had to push and her clutch smelt dreadful!! Good drive up to Tully, although Anne did get a little worried that she had gone wrong in Edinburgh but Jan followed faithfully. Colin at Tully when we arrived: Thought we had been offroading and also thought we should empty tents into river first as they were so wet. Weather was wonderful so everything dried in a couple of hours. River up, boat breaker was just about covered. Jan and the boys were worried! Anne’s awning was becoming the evening lounge where we had drinks and played draughts or cards.



Anne’s very dirty car

Mon: - Most days Colin managed to go out for a run or a bike ride. It was very cold overnight so didn’t sleep well but after lovely showers felt much better and weather was good. We had set up 2 lounges so during the day we sat around a picnic table to eat, do crosswords and generally chat and

in the evenings used Anne's awning as it was sheltered from midge's and slightly warmer. Boys had 2 sessions with Colin - morning 1000hrs - 1130hrs then evening 1800hrs - 1930hrs. Only did what they were happy doing but confidence built up all the time. Nick had a swim on both sessions, which knocked him a little. Colin was Buzzard watching and everyone "borrowed" his binoculars! The 3 boys (Nick, Rich and Colin!) attempted to build a fire in front of the evening lounge. Nick and Rick discovered from Esther that they had come first place in the J16 and J14 respectively on Sunday and she had collected their prizes for them.



Our first feeble attempt

Tues: - Weather getting better. 2 sessions again at same times. Rich had a swim but confidence is still building. River levels are dropping and more rocks are showing. A metal rod decided to become friendly with George's boat but everything is fine no major damage. Tried to light fire again but still no success.



Success at last

Wed: - Weather even hotter. We saw some amazing low flying jets that made the earth tremble! When Vicky arrived at 1600hrs her car was saying it was 90degrees. Another 2 training sessions on the water with Vicky joining the evening one. Anne took the Booths into Aberfeldy and they all did the Birks of Aberfeldy walk, 1.7miles in the shade up a gorge with waterfalls, really nice and picturesque. Anne joined Esther as an extra pair of eyes as she introduced novices to harder water. Introduced Vicky to the evening lounge and this time the boys were successful in lighting a fire but used pinecones so it was very smoky and very smelly – eyes were watering! It was bad news for Anne and all the stuff in her caravan.

Thurs: - Weather once again wonderful. Just had a morning training session, confidence is getting better all the time and boys doing really well. Colin and Vicky cycled up to the SCA access point whilst Anne and Jan drove with the boys. Jan went on the “flat water” section in Lil Joe and managed not to capsize so she was happy!! (spectators weren’t though!). Anne once again helped Esther. After a session Esther gets all her juniors to jump in the river in kit and float/swim down the river, this helps them to understand what happens when they come out of a boat and they also enjoy it even if it is very cold. Tony arrived at teatime and this time we all went to the pub. This has changed it is now a “boutique bar” with no atmosphere and no locals (bad news for its success).



The boys sunning themselves after paddling



Fri:- Weather still wonderful. Aaron arrived. Then Mike Green and John Ford arrived but had to pitch in the overflow as the site was so full. The Brazendales arrived very late - we thought they had got lost. Today is a no training day. The Booths went to the beach at Carnoustie and had a lovely family day. Anne got herself organised for judging and discovered that entries had closed. Problem!!

Sat: - Boys got up very early so they could have a go on the course. As boys and Mike had no entries we had a problem but someone overheard us talking and offered his places, as he had to leave so everything came right in the end. The competition was held up at times due to rafts coming down the river. Quite amusing to watch when some of them got stuck!

Mike Green	Best time	103.0
Colin Shackleton		112.1
George Rix		113.7
Charlotte Whitaker		125.0
Nick Booth		128.6
Tony O'Connell		136.6
Rich Booth		246.7

Charlotte and Nick both received junior 16 prizes.

Once again everyone adjourned to the evening lounge for drinks and a chat. This included John Ford, Mike and the Brazendales.

Sun:

George Rix	Best time	112.4
Mike Green		113.8
Colin Shackleton		117.8
Tony O'Connell		125.5
Charlotte Whitaker		139.7
Nick Booth		141.8
Rich Booth		250.2

Rich had another swim on his first run but this does mean that the Booth boys have had 2 swims each. Tony was away by teatime taking one very tired Jasper with him. Mike and John left before prize-giving so we collected John's 2nd place prize for him. The Brazendales also left after second

runs. Vicky and Aaron had not paddled but been on bike rides and up to Pitlochry to look at the Tummel. Very relaxed evening with everyone being tired and winding down: George and Dan Ibbotson joined us as they were fed up of watching the same video again and again in the Greenstar camp!

At any one time at least 10% of the club was on this trip with a fifth of the club being there for the Tully competition.

We would like to thank the club for the use of the hot water boiler: this made washing up much easier and a communal affair.

Colin says “stunning performance from the juniors”.

Tony “don’t forget your boat”

Jasper “tireddest dog in the world!!”

Although a non-camper Jan surprised herself and did enjoy her trip!



The state of Anne’s car after a week (the windows of course had been washed so that she could see out!)