



Fairnilee/Tully Club Trip 2009

This month we have quite a lot in the newsletter due to a gang of 15 going to Scotland.

Fairnilee

Club members travelling to Fairnilee near Selkirk in the Borders were Anne and Amy, Jez, George and Cas. Emma T also came up Saturday and joined her friends from Tees Tigers. The weather driving up on the Thursday was not very good and you could see that river levels were high. I would like to thank Esther from Green Star for the coaching she gave to Amy. She managed to get Amy to go a little out of her comfort zone and paddle out towards the middle of the river up at the top end of the camping field. She was in a group of other beginners with plenty of safety around. On the Saturday evening Greg Hitchin took Amy down in a C2 and she was grinning from ear to ear.

Cas and Jez competed both Saturday and Sunday and Jez kindly did a C2 run on Sunday with Amy, unfortunately they decided not to finish the second run as they wanted to have a swim just before the finish line. Anne as usual did her judging stints and took photo's, which haven't come out as well as expected. Sunday was a terribly wet day for packing up and moving sites.

Tully

Jan and Rich travelled up to Tully on Saturday. Colin, George, Anne and Amy arrived on Sunday. Karen, Laura and Emma with Graham coming up on Thursday joined them on Tuesday. Jez and Cas came up Friday and took over their larger tent and relegated George back to the small tent. Steve, Viki and Connor were staying in a static caravan over on the banks of the Tummel and arrived very early on Monday morning and came over to join us all each day. River levels were high for the time of year therefore the beginners were not allowed to paddle but it did mean that we were able to get everything dry as it was a lovely day. Tuesday levels were safer for the beginners and they were able to start doing 2 sessions per day. Again Esther managed to get our 2 to go beyond their comfort zones. Connor was moved from the club fox into Ani's old Slingshot slalom boat. By day 2 he was doing runs from the middle section past the boat breaker to the bridge. Once he had done this, there was not stopping him and he was doing it backwards, forwards and sideways but always with support. On Thursday he also had done it from the top get on point down to the bridge.

So a real well done Connor.



Esther and various members from other canoe clubs did various coaching sessions for everyone there so a big thanks you to them for coaching Amy, Connor and Emma. Colin did his usual excellent job of coaching our members Rick and Laura. George was part of John Sturgess's group.

Weather wise we had good and bad weather and also the tail end of a hurricane when a lot of the camp site were up and about during the night making sure boats and tents were safe and pegged down. Over the weekend though it was dry and sunny but a bit windy. Club members had a good

results day Saturday but not as good Sunday. Anne did her usual judging but due to river levels could not sit on the rock in the river where she usually does.

On Saturday evening the 15 club members went to the Tully café for pizzas, drink and to celebrated Rick's 15th birthday. We also had cake and candles and everyone took part in singing Happy Birthday. Thank you to Jan for organizing this, we all had a really good evening.

Personally I would like to thank Viki for being Aunty Viki to Amy and helping her get on the water etc. I have to stay away as she will not go the extra bit with me being around. Viki also loved dog-sitting Moss for us and wants to adopted her or trade her for 2 Wiemaraners. **Sorry Viki no can do.** I think in general we all had a really good time notwithstanding the weather, I know Amy and Connor did.

Suggestion – we get some form of gazebo to sit under during inclement weather. There was a group of Czech men competing and they had a really good shelter, which withstood most of the weather.

Quotes – Rick had instructions to **“adopt a table”** this gave members a focal point for being together.

The best quote though was from Viki when she first saw Tully **“it's like Washburn on Steroids”**



For next Easter, Esther has booked the Tully bunkhouse, which is the old Grandtully hotel across the road from the slalom site. It sleeps up to 34 people and if you want a room please contact Esther on ASAP. She has booked it for about a week to Monday 5th April. It will be on a first come basis. Other things to look at for local accommodations are

www.cottages4you.co.uk, which you may be able to get a discount on once, set up.

Logerait log cabins, which are about 10mins drive between the A9 and the slalom site.

There are also other properties in Aberfeldy, the Dunnolly bunkhouse and also on the back road to Weem there is a new bunkhouse.

There is a Youth Hostel in Pitlochry.

Bendaloch and the Inn on the Tay also do B and B and they are both in Grandtully.