



Westminster Boating Base

Inspiring young people to broaden their horizons

CHRISTMAS 2010 NEWSLETTER

Members' and Users Christmas Party with prize-giving. Sunday 12th December, 5.30pm

Twelve days before Christmas and all through the Base,
Not a creature was stirring, this was due to the case,
That all were in boats, Christmas watersports to do,
With Santa hats and baubles and costumes on a few.
And after the paddle, when all were thawed out,
A great party followed, and those with talents to flout,
took to the stage for the Great Cabaret
And there never had been such a jolly old day.
With food baked and brought by everyone who attended
The day was great fun until late when it ended.



Don't miss the Xmas paddle and sail in the afternoon. Bring a Santa hat! Christmas party includes cabaret and prize giving for our in-house competitions and more!

Sharks Wild Water Racing

This was a new venture as WBB has not attended a Wild Water Racing event previously. This kayaking discipline can be compared to downhill skiing where the paddler negotiates a course, on whitewater at an advanced level, as quickly as possible. There are no gates to go through; it is just a case of fastest time through the obstacles wins.



At a lower level it is mostly flat, slow-moving water with a short section of whitewater involved, e.g. shooting a weir. The day was attended by 10 of our youth members and for most it was the first time in a Wildwater racing boat which was a lot of fun as they are rather unstable when not at speed!

Results: Daniel Petev, 1st Senior Mens; Richard Pangonis, 2nd Senior Mens; Blaire Bacchus, 2nd J18 Ladies; Nikou Damestani, 1st J16 Ladies; Georgina Corrie, 2nd J16 Ladies; Shahid Wahab, 1st J16 Mens; Kadeem McFarlane,

2nd J16 Mens; Nadir Wahab, 5th J16 Mens; Jacob Hemley, 1st J14 Mens; Rhys Alexander, 2nd J14 mens. WBB also won a trophy for highest ranking club!

WBB London Youth Games Squad Kayak & Sail Training

WBB is providing weekly floodlit training sessions on Mondays 4-6pm for slalom training. Those that attend will form the WBB Youth Games Squad from which a team will be selected prior to the Games next summer. It is a drop-in style session so you can arrive at



Caitlin Lister, semi-finalist at the 2010 Games.

any time during the session. Sail race training will be scheduled for Sundays through the winter so watch our website and twitter/facebook feeds for updates.

Winter clothing regulations are now in effect and if you are keen to be included in the squad, please talk to us as we have some equipment that can be donated to committed causes.

Active Westminster Awards for WBB and youth member Kadeem McFarlane



WBB was recently nominated as the winner of the Active Westminster Community Sports Club Award 2010. This is recognition of our commitment to the provision of watersports to the whole community.

Kadeem McFarlane was presented with an award for his achievement of Gold medal at the kayak slalom event in the London Youth Games and his previous achievements which include competing in Division 2 at a national level.

Volunteer of the Year!

Joint winner of the Canoe-England Ruth Holdway Community Volunteer award for long service, kayak coach Matthew Harbord is due to collect his award in December. Matt Harbord, effectively having a year off from his work, spent the vast majority of his time volunteering at WBB throughout the 2009/10 seasons and was often seen out on the water teaching, maintaining equipment or in the office assisting with the admin. Thanks and congratulations! Keep your eye on British Canoe Union publication 'Canoe Focus' for more info.



Cross-Channel with the Royal Thames Yacht Club (RTYC)



Blaire & crew aboard the "Donald Searle"

Youth member Blaire Bacchus, last year's winner of the yachting bursary (provided by the RTYC in conjunction with the Rona Trust), has recently returned from her week of sailing. Along with a crew of several other girls her age, Blaire attempted a crossing of the English Channel, only to have to turn back halfway due to Gale Force winds! Once the storm had passed they sailed along the Jurassic Coast of southern England. During this time, Blaire achieved her RYA Competent Crew certificate and was given the Amory Award for giving her best effort during the voyage. She has been invited to apply for a place on the Tall Ships Race 2011. Well done Captain Blaire!

Looking forwards to 2011

- Sailing and kayaking continues on Sundays throughout the winter so don't miss out on those crisp sunny mornings on the river (winter clothing regs apply).
- The Marine Policing Unit will be coming to WBB to present their work on the Thames one evening in the New Year. Watch this space for more info.
- The 2011 summer season opens on Monday 4th April 2011. We have already started planning the coming years' activities and RYA sailing and powerboating course dates are already published on our website so book early or buy a loved one a present.