

Westminster Boating Base

March 2006 Newsletter



5th edition

Welcome to the 5th edition of our newsletter - keeping you informed of all the latest developments at the Boating Base. Since our 30th Birthday celebrations last October we have been busy repairing and replenishing the equipment, seeking grants and donations, teaching school groups and planning for the coming season which starts on **Monday 3rd April 2006**.

Thanks to all of you that have been making suggestions for the 2006 programme on our online forum 'The Grapevine' - we have endeavoured to take your suggestions onboard and produce a wide and varied programme which will hopefully provide a range of activities which will appeal to all.

Hot off the press!!!!

We've just had some fantastic news. A number of months ago a grant application was made to raise funds to replace our aging fleet of Bosun sailing dinghies. We have just received confirmation that we have obtained this funding and as a result will soon be placing an order for a brand new fleet of Laser Stratos dinghies (see picture). These are ultra-modern dinghies with all the latest gadgets and technology - a centre main-sheet set-up, fast reefing and an asymmetric spinnaker to mention a few.

We hope to have these on the water early to mid summer.



The Olympics

The year 2012 may seem like a long way off to you all but if there are some of you out there who have a competitive streak and would like to go for it then WBB can help you. If you are between ten and 18 now then by the time the Olympics come to Britain, you will be at the prime age for selection to the British Olympic squads.

There are two disciplines in kayaking - slalom and sprint racing - that you could train for and if sailing is your cup of tea then the Olympic class Laser dinghies are a good choice. Combine training at the Base with racing at national level and see how you do - you could be the next British gold medal winner!



2006 Programme

So here is a sneak preview of what's coming up in the summer of 2006:

Please note:

The times of the evening sessions are changing for 2006. The beginner youth sessions in kayaking and sailing are on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings respectively from **5-8pm**.

Monday and Thursday evening sessions will be 6-9pm.

Sailing

Beginner youth sessions will run on Wednesday evenings from **5-8pm** and are included in the youth membership.

Adult beginners will need to book on one of our RYA Level 1 & 2 dinghy courses - the first of which is April 22nd / 23rd & 29th / 30th. These are four day courses run over two weekends. Cost £200.

There are many sessions available to experienced youths & adults and if you have had a seasons sailing experience since attaining your RYA Level 2 certificate, why not book on an RYA Seamanship Skills course.

Hopefully this year we will be placing an order for a new fleet of training dinghies although this is pending grant applications and by no means certain - we've got our fingers crossed!

The Base will also be running a number of trips through the season for both youths and adults. These include day trips to the coast, and a week-long residential sailing summer holiday in Cornwall.

For those of you that have aspirations to race at a higher level and even at the Olympics, or those who want to sail and race with other people at different locations, the Base will also be attending some Laser Class Association racing events.



Kayaking

Slalom - Training will be on Thursday evenings with a series of races (WBB Slalom League) spread throughout the season. The league races are designed as friendly events for all to take part in - whether you've been paddling for years or it is your first time - and the training sessions will teach you all you need to know so join in and enjoy the fun.



Sprint kayak training and racing - The training nights for this Olympic discipline will be alternated with the slalom sessions on Thursday evenings so if straight line racing sounds like your sort of thing then come and try it out.

For newcomers to the sport of kayaking, there will be evening sessions available to both youths and adults.

Youths can attend on a Tuesday from **5-8pm** and adults on a Monday from **6-9pm**.

Sunday sessions will, of course, continue as usual for the more experienced paddlers.

Calling all parents & adult kayakers!!!

We're looking to form a group of motivated adults who would like to help their and others' children to achieve in their chosen sports. There are various national slalom kayaking competitions that are organised by local canoe clubs under the guidance of the British Canoe Union around the country (many of them fairly nearby which we have a list of) that are held at weekends. They are usually very well organised events with safety cover, food stalls, camping if required, etc. and have a divisional structure - a little like football.



Competitors begin by entering Division 4 races and work their way up through the divisions to Div 1 and then Premier (from which the Olympic squad is selected).

So if you would like to participate, get away for the weekend and/or have a car available for the transportation of the kit, WBB is prepared to lend you the kayaks, paddles and any other equipment required in order to help your youngsters excel and make your weekend a

success.

Please contact Adam for further details and the dates of events if you are interested. 020 7821 7389 or adam@westminsterboatingbase.co.uk

Prices

Youth Membership: There is no fixed fee for youth membership. Instead, WBB would welcome a donation to the Charity. Membership entitles you to attend all of the sessions in both sailing and kayaking with no further charge for a whole year (except for away trips which may require an additional subsidised charge).

Adults: Adults can pay a fee of £10 per session or purchase a season ticket. These are available for the summer season @ £90 (3rd April - 31st October), for the winter @ £50 (1st November - 31st March), or can be bought together for a total discounted price of £120. Season tickets entitle you to both kayaking and sailing (where appropriate).

Note: From 1st Nov - 31st March, clothing regulations apply

Website & Forum

Our website has been up and running for several years now and is continually evolving. You can now find information on sessions and courses in sailing, kayaking and powerboating; the use of the building as a party venue; buy WBB t-shirts and wetsuits; download maps, newsletters, forms, brochures and the programme; make *secure* online donations & view images and video of WBB activities in the Gallery.

Perhaps more significantly, our website has become an essential tool, enabling us to let you know exactly what is happening on a day-to-day basis within our walls (and out on the river):

On the "*This Week @ WBB*" page you will find a breakdown of each days activities with start and finish times to enable you to plan when you can go out on the water.

"*The Grapevine*" is our online forum which, once you have created a username for yourself, allows you to communicate with other members of the Base, discuss sailing and kayaking related issues and arrange to meet other Base members for activities and events. The Base administration can also post information related to up and coming events and trips on the forum so join up and keep your ear to the ground!

Quite often, information becomes available on our website and forum before it goes to press on paper or email so add it to your *favourites* in your web browser and make us your *home*

!!! The release of the new 2006 programme is imminent !!!

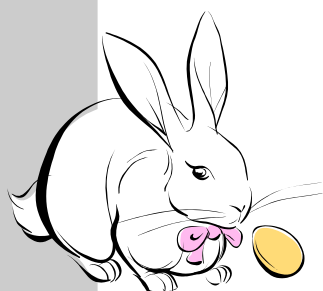
As you are reading this, we are busily preparing and publishing our programme. When finished, it will be available as a paper copy, as a download on the website and via email - so refresh your browser, watch your inbox and listen for the sound of the postman as you could be in for a treat!



WBB kayakers playing raft games in Grosvenor Dock last summer

Easter

Open as usual on
Easter Sunday
10-1pm & 2-5pm
and on Easter
Monday 6-9pm



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