



Hello Members and users of Westminster Boating Base

Welcome to the fourth edition of our newsletter which is released on a regular basis to keep you informed of developments and news at the Base.

Some Highlights of the Spring/Summer Season

2005 has been the busiest year on record!

This year saw a big increase in group visits to the Base.

- The day on the river with Oak Lodge School for profoundly deaf children was a great success. It was an introduction to kayaking for the Oak Lodge Children but also an introduction to sign language for the instructors here at the Base.
- Volunteer Instructor Kat Hall is starting a 6 week sign language course at Brockley Rise Adult Education Centre.
- This year kayaking on the Thames was also enjoyed by Cardinal Hume centre for homeless youngsters, Churchill Gardens Youth Club and St Johns Wood Adventure Playground. Ebury Bridge Youth club had fun both sailing and kayaking.

Away Trips

During the school summer hols our regular youth members packed their bags and headed for the Lake District (4 days sailing) and the River Wye (5 days white water kayaking):

Happy Snaps of the Lakes Trip:



Out in the Omega on Lake Windermere



Racing in Wayfarers and Laser Picos



Kat, William and Tom try out the Omega



Kat loses the pickled onion eating contest!

The Lake District sailing trip is summed up marvellously by Kat below:

“Excited and ready we left for our first day of sailing, one group in mighty Laser Picos with the rest in Wayfarers and an Omega. We raced round in teams, the winners being Ben, Mark and Lawrence, closely by the all girls team of myself, Anne and Chloe and last came the other team.

On the final day of sailing I learned to appreciate the Omega and put the spinnakers out when the wind finally came. This led to a very eventful session in my boat with Tom, William and I managing a fair few splashes.....Although very wet, not one person came back with a frown.

Everyone went home having enjoyed themselves and not having got away without doing the washing up while everyone’s sailing improved. Not surprisingly, it was a much more quiet drive back to London as everyone was exhausted.”



River Wye Pics:



Gabby breaking out using a low brace turn



Leonard leads the way

Happy 30th Birthday to WBB!

To mark the occasion the Duke of Edinburgh visited us to unveil a plaque commemorating 30 years of success and to award WBB youth competition winners. Congratulations to our winners:

WBB Birthday Photos:



HRH Duke of Edinburgh
With Mark Batchelor Chairman of the Trustees



Mark Kitchen is awarded the David Graham
Medal for Achievement.

More Birthday Piccies:



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and Ben Langton
cut the Birthday Cake



Competition winners from left Charlotte Moseley,
Mark Kitchen, Ben Langton, Paolo Farina and Lawrence Arbus





The Mayor of Westminster goes for gold on the ergo machine



A motley crew!

Kayak Slalom League:

Won third year running by **Mark Kitchen**
 2nd Place – **Ben Langton**
 3rd Place – **Paolo Farina**

Overbury Cup for sailing:

1st place – **Lawrence Arbus**
 2nd Place – **Ben Langton**
 3rd Place – **Charlotte Moseley**

- Ben Langton won the Duke of Edinburgh Challenge trophy for winning the “no tide day” slalom.
- Mark Kitchen was awarded the David Graham for Achievement after a year which saw him become a qualified BCU kayak instructor and take his sailing skills just short of RYA level 2.

Also congratulations to:

- James Gray for winning the Overbury Masters Cup for sailing.
- Kat Hall for gaining her Level 2 kayak coaching qualification.
- To everyone who passed their canoe (kayak) safety test.

Other Achievements / Competition Winners:

T shirt competition

- We have a weird and wonderful 2006 challenge:
- To mark our 30th anniversary we designed the gorgeous WBB T-shirt.
- Where is the weirdest, most obscure and interesting location you can be seen in the WBB T-shirt?
- T shirts can be bought from the Boating Base for £5.00.
- Take your T shirt on holiday and get snapping!!

Pictures of freaky T-shirt wearing to be sent to adam@westminsterboatingbase.co.uk

2006 Programme

- Work will start soon on the programme for 2006 and we would like to hear from all members with suggestions for the forthcoming season
- What were your favourite sessions last year?
- What can you think of which would be new, exciting and challenging?
- For example, how does a 2 week kayaking expedition to the South of France sound? Any takers?

Please get your suggestions in by e-mail, letter or speak directly to one of the staff as soon as you can as we hope to finalise the programme by end of January 2006.



We are also investigating the possibility of purchasing/obtaining/providing:

- Some sea kayaks
- Lightning Sprint K1s for up to 12 years old and other sprint kayaks
- More freestyle kayaks
- Laser Stratos Sailing Dinghies
- Pico Sailing Dinghies
- Specific Olympic discipline based activities
- Flat water sprinting and slalom
- More competitions for kayaking and sailing

F.A.O. Volunteer Instructors

Session Feedback Sheet:

This is to voice any concerns, opinions or to let us know what a great time you had during the session. The sheet is available as a download from the website or you can pick up a hard copy from the office

A Big Thank You

Without the support of all our helpers and volunteers we would not be able to operate and provide the excellent service we do. So very many thanks to all of you who have helped us this year. We look forward to your continued support in 2006.

Your User Representative on the Management Board

A message from James Gray (your man on the Board):

The Base has a Management Board that oversees the running of the place, and makes plans for the future (things like replacing the Bosuns, and planning the 30th Birthday). I am on the Board to represent the views of the users of the Base. But I can't do that unless I know what those views are!

So contact me - either drop a note into the office marked for James Gray, or send me a private message on the Grapevine (username James), or email me at james.gray@ons.gov.uk. In particular, I'm interested in questions like:

- How do you find out what's happening at the base?
- Do you feel you know enough about what's going on?
- What do you think the base could do better?
- What does the base do well?
- What improvements would you like to see?
- For background, whether you're a sailor or kayaker, a youth or an adult member.

Have a Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again in 2006

The WBB Team

