

Westminster Boating Base
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www.westminsterboatingbase.co.uk

IMPORTANT DATES:

The Boating Base will be closed over the festive season from 22nd December to 1st January inclusive.

Assistant Dinghy Instructor Course

On 7th & 14th January 2007, WBB will be running an Assistant Instructor course in dinghies. The pre-requisite for this is RYA Level 2 and minimum age of 16 years. There will be no charge for youth members and for adults, the usual sessional rate. If you are interested in this, please contact the Chief Instructor—Kevin.

Members' Competition

The brief: Make a model boat, which can move under its own power, to not exceed more than 1 metre in length. Must be homemade (no pre-manufactured kits and no radio controls but motors are allowed). Don't forget to name it!

Make your entry: By email or post by 31st January to 'The Newsletter Race Committee' at WBB. State your full name and the name of your craft. You will then be informed of the race date.

The Race: On a Sunday to be decided in February. After the models have passed scrutineering, there will be a short straight-line race for the boats.

The judging: Points will be awarded for performance in the race, ingenuity in design and style in equal proportions.

The winning youth member will receive £50 worth of watersports clothing.

Hints: Think about the working parts of

the full-size boats you use at the Base—take the important features and build them into the design of your model.

Look around your house for items that could be used for your model—a washing up liquid bottle, a pencil, a handkerchief, etc. The more adventurous and practical might go to their local hardware store...

U18s should only use glue, knives & other tools under the supervision of an adult and with their parents' permission

Further tips at

www.westminsterboatingbase.co.uk/newscomp.htm



END OF YEAR ROUND UP 2006

Summer of Sport '06



- **Members & users Christmas Party on Sunday 17th December from 6pm onwards. See website for more details.**

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In connection with the Mayor's London-wide initiative to make sport as accessible as possible to all people, Westminster Boating Base ran 3 days of drop-in style sessions in both sailing and kayaking. Over this time, more than 200 youths & adults sailed and kayaked at no cost. It was a really busy few days but so successful and rewarding for everyone—Instructors and pupils alike—that you may see a similar event in next years programme!

This was also combined with a naming ceremony for our recently pur-

Thames Festival

Westminster Boating Base had a stand this year at the Thames Festival displaying a sailing dinghy, kayaks and photos of our activities. A band of volunteers manned the stall and chatted to passers-by



Sailing & kayaking activities during the Summer of Sport

chased, courtesy of John Lyons Charity, Laser Stratos dinghies. Andrew Stebbings from John Lyons performed the unveiling but we avoided the traditional method of breaking a bottle of Champagne on them as this may have led to damage!

to spread the word about all the exciting activities we offer and the good work that we do. Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time and enthusiasm to our cause.

London Regatta



London Regatta Top Club Trophy won by WBB sailors

On 8th October 2006, a 16 strong team from WBB went to the London Regatta. This event was new for this year & coincided with the annual test of the Barrier which stops the tide for the day. Teams

entered from a number of sailing clubs and centres from all over London—a total of 62 dinghies! After a day of intense competition, the exhausted team returned victorious having won the

trophy for the highest placed overall club .

The planning committee are intending to improve on the regatta for next year so it promises to be an even bigger event.

No tide day Slalom Competition



On the same day as WBB sailors were racing at the London Regatta, the annual slalom kayaking competition was held at WBB. Being on the day when the tide is stopped for a full cycle it is suitable for people of all ages and abilities and clubs and centres from across London were invited. After a day of

racing in four age categories, both male and female, the prize giving got underway. The overall winners were:

1st boys—Frank Driscoll from Surrey Docks

1st girls—Gabby Bathgate from WBB

Ben Langton took the WBB Slalom League Trophy

home and Daniel Petev the 'David Graham Medal for Achievement' for the 2006 season. With this is also included a cheque for £50 to spend on watersports equipment. With this, having a birthday & being the last newsletter's competition winner, Daniel was able to purchase a fantastic cranked shaft paddle.

Yalding Weir Slalom Competition



The medal winners of Yalding Weir Slalom

October saw a trip in the minibus to Yalding Weir, venue for a BCU national canoe-slalom competition. The events work much like football in that there are several divisions and you are promoted up

through them. Everyone started the weekend in Division 4 and by the end of it, between the 12 people that went, by the end of Saturday they had achieved 3 promotions to Div 3, 3xGold medals,

3xSilver medals and a highest placed junior win. The team then went on to gain another 4 promotions, 3xGold medals, 2xSilver medals and 3xbronze medals on the Sunday. Congratulations!

A word from your users' representative...

Hello! I'm your new user representative on the Base's Management Board, taking over from James Gray. I'm interested in hearing any thoughts that you have on any issues important to you as a user of WBB. If there is something you think is done particularly well or badly, or where there is room for improvement, please let me know. This can be for on the water (sailing and kayaking), for the facilities and equipment of the Base or anything to do with communications (website, forum etc) - anything that's important to you. I will take your com-

ments to the Management Board's regular meetings, anonymously if desired, so that we can ensure the issues important to the members are kept a priority. I will be creating a questionnaire in due course to get your feedback on specific points, but contact me if you think of anything. Please either come and see me at the Base (I'm there most sessions), email me on elaina.ford@physics.org, send me a private message through the forum or add to the dedicated thread. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks! Elaina.



Elaina Ford—your new contact at WBB

Winter courses:

Level 2 Improver with race coaching: 28th Jan.

Sailing with Spinnakers: 11th & 18th Feb.

Seamanship Skills: 25th Feb & 4th March.

All days will be 10am-5pm. Book in advance. Cost: sessional rates. See website for more details.

Looking Forwards...

The 2007 season promises to be more fun packed than ever.

There will be:

- beginner sailing and kayaking sessions on a weekly basis.
- More trips away to national slalom events to build upon our success this year.
- A summer white-water kayaking trip
- A coastal sailing trip

- Open 'drop in' days for sailing & kayaking.

- The London Youth Games

The list is endless but at present not set in stone. If you have enjoyed certain parts of what we do more than others then please let us know what you would like to see more of so that we can tailor the programme to suit you—our membership.

The 2007 summer

season will open on Monday 2nd April. But don't forget we are open all through the winter so if you can already sail or kayak and can meet our winter clothing regulations, we'd be pleased to see you.

PS. HMS Westminster, a patron of WBB, is in Portsmouth during January & we'll be organising a trip to visit the warship.

