

The summer season is nearly over at the Base which means that the Youth User Group can now look at asking people how they found the summer at the Base and if there are any improvements they think need to be made. We will be producing a questionnaire soon to find out what you think about the kayaking, sailing and the building. This is to see what you like or what you want changed.

We are in the process of organising lots of events which we hope will keep everyone interested over the winter season and we are hoping to produce a WBB Christmas Panto.

Between now and February next year we are trying to raise money to buy a Vago dinghy, which is a type of sailing boat, to remember Rob Feneck (Bob), who was a much loved sailing instructor at WBB who died tragically in a road accident last February.

We hope you enjoy all the things we are planning which will include quizzes and fancy dress kayaking. Come and talk to us if you have any suggestions.

Charlotte, Gabby, Ben & Daniel

## Looking Forward...

**From 1st November:** Winter clothing regulations apply. See website for details.

**Christmas kayaking:** 16th Dec. 2-5pm. Enjoy a festive trip through the city of London at dusk followed by the members' party at 6pm.

**Winter Slalom Kayaking sessions:** Every Wednesday, 4-6pm starting 7th November. Drop-in slalom kayaking sessions. Come down and hone your skills every week in preparation for next seasons racing.

**Sailing Courses:** Keep your eyes on our website calendar for a selection of more advanced courses running over the winter, including RYA Seamanship Skills and RYA Sailing with Spinnakers.

**2008 Programme:** This will be available in the new year.

**Invite a Friend:** Why not pass this newsletter onto a friend you think may be interested in kayaking or sailing. They can join our mailing list and receive the 2008 Programme.

## A big thank you...

To every one who has volunteered their time to helping the Boating Base this year. Much of what we do relies upon the help of our volunteers and events that we have been assisted with this year include:

- ~ The Thames Festival
- ~ Summer Barbecue
- ~ No tide day slalom & Freestyle event
- ~ Summer of Sport sessions
- ~ Tuesday & Wednesday evening beginner sessions.

YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE! Give yourselves a pat on the back.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help us, please talk to one of the staff members to see what we can do for you!

Frank O'Driscoll cartwheeling at the no-tide day kayaking event.



## Round-up of the Summer Season

Welcome to the 9th edition of our Newsletter giving you the highlights of a very busy but particularly successful summer.

During the school summer holidays we ran numerous 2 day beginner courses in both sailing and kayaking, a four day 'Summer of Sport' consisted of free sessions in both sports for anyone who turned up. More than 300 people attended this.

A 10 day whitewater kayaking trip to France was the highlight for the kayakers whilst the sailors were able to enjoy a fantastic 5 day sailing trip to Lake Windermere.

In addition to the usual evening sessions we were also able to squeeze in a very enjoyable downriver sail and kayak through the Thames



Barrier and a day-trip upriver paddle to Kew.

The RS Feva fleet, which has expanded to six boats, is proving to be really popular. The dinghies were bought because they have flexible rigging and crewing arrangements and their status as the recognized youth ISAF sailing dinghy. They are an ideal way to start single-handed sailing both for our youth and adult sailors.

WBB had a stand at the Thames Festival to promote our activities. Some of those manning our increasingly popular stand had joined WBB as a result of the previous year's festival.



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### Special points of interest:

- Congrats to Martin Shirley & Elaina Ford on achieving NGB instructor certificates in kayaking and sailing respectively.
- Quiz Night, Sunday 18th Nov 6pm. Adult members £4, Youth members, no charge
- Members Christmas Party, Sun 16th December 6pm

## A Word from your Users' Rep



The London Youth Games Slalom Kayaking Champions with their trophy and medals and coach Rob Darrall.



Ben, aspiring GBR Team paddler, competing at Shepperton in September.

It's been a very busy summer, more so than ever probably. As well as the packed summer schedule, we had a couple of special extra events.

HMS Westminster adopted us as their main charity a few years ago and recently invited us to visit them on the Solent in July with an overnight stay.

It was very enjoyable & due to rough seas, she came all the way into Portsmouth harbour to pick up our small group! The tour of the ship was really interesting and we were even given a go at driving.

She'll be back in London in December, and we're thinking of holding a sailing race against some of their crew. If you're interested in helping WBB win, please let me know!

We had a summer BBQ in July, with entertainment from some of the kayakers. Thanks to Jim for being fire master and for most of the cooking.

## Slalom Kayaking

Slalom kayaking has gathered pace this year, not only with the in-house league racing but also with national competitions. WBB attended 6 national races this year and there are now four paddlers ranked in Division 3 and two in Div 2. One of these has decided to pursue the sport in a more serious fashion with aspirations to represent his country at international level. He is currently seeking sponsorship.

We'll be having a Members' Christmas Party again this year on 16<sup>th</sup> December, following the great success of last year.

I'm also delighted to announce we're having a special WBB Pantomime, written and directed by Charlotte Moseley! Contact her if you'd like to take part - otherwise just turn up to the Christmas Party for a good giggle. Can't wait!

Before all that though, there will be another Quiz Night, on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, this time with an added music round! £4 entry for adults, for a good night's entertainment, and prizes of course, and proceeds go to Bob's Boat Fund. A voluntary donation from the youth members would be welcome.

Watch this space for the winter season activities we have planned!

At the London Youth Games in July, the WBB team returned with 5 medals and the trophy for the highest placed borough!

Due to recent changes in the rules for boat designs in slalom competition, WBB has invested in 6 kayaks for those who have achieved national rankings and there will be slalom training sessions all through the winter on Wednesdays.

## Whitewater Kayaking in France

In August, the kayakers set off with a full minibus to St. Pierre de Boeuf in the south of France for a kayaking & camping trip. After many adrenaline-filled days on the whitewater course, all conquered the biggest feature—the stopper known affectionately as

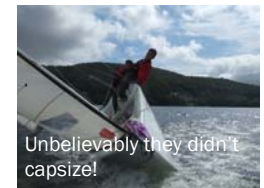
“death” and competed in the “Great Flan Race”. After a brief stop at a giant wave known as Hawaii-sur-Rhone for the advanced paddlers, it was time to head for home, exhausted after the excitement of the previous days activities.



## Dinghy Sailing on Lake Windermere

The end of August saw the sailors head off to the Lake District for some action on the largest lake in England. They were a mixed bunch—for some this was a completely new experience and for the more capable, a chance to try-out new techniques on a vast stretch of water. Evening activities included sailing theory,

games and a low ropes course. All improved their sailing abilities dramatically as we explored the lake and many learned new techniques such as sailing single-handedly, using symmetrical and assymetrical spinnakers and trapezing.



Unbelievably they didn't capsize!

## New BCU Performance Awards

The British Canoe Union has revamped its Star Award scheme. The new one star certificate is generic to any type of kayak or canoe. The 2 star certificate has to be done in both a kayak and canoe. At 3 star, you specialise and choose the discipline that you prefer. WBB are pleased to announce that we are cur-

rently training & assessing the new awards. Don't worry, your old certificates still count so you can move on to the next one as soon as you're ready to and tuition will be conducted in the same format as it has been this year, ie. on the advertised teaching sessions.



## No-Tide-Day Competition

On 9<sup>th</sup> Sept, WBB ran a beginners canoe-slalom competition, attended by centres from all over London. This was hotly contested and the inclusive barbecue lunch was a great success with a prize-giving at

the end. Winners were, Boys: Frank O'Driscoll, Girls: Maxine Hingston. On the same day, the sailors went to the London Regatta in Greenwich to race. Sadly, we didn't bring the trophy



home like last year but well done to Paul and Nina for their 3<sup>rd</sup> place.