

## Obituary

On 23rd February 2007, Robert Feneck, a lifelong volunteer and instructor of the Boating Base died in a road traffic accident. Robert, aka Rob or Bob, first joined the Base as a 12 year old and learned to sail and kayak, achieving coaching qualifications in both. Over the years he gave much of his time and enthusiasm to the Base and its members and was undeniably a presence around the place—both physically and in personality! A humorous and colourful character, he will be sorely missed.



No doubt this will be sad news to many of you. Many have already made donations towards a memorial for him. We are aiming towards a sailing dinghy which can be named after him and a trophy to be awarded annually to volunteers who, like Bob, give a lot of their time to the Base. If you would like

to make a donation towards this, please do so via our website ([www.westminsterboatingbase.co.uk](http://www.westminsterboatingbase.co.uk) Gift Aid increases the value of your donation if you are a tax payer), by post or in person.

## Youth Members' Competition

Answer the following questions:

1. What is a dead-eye?
2. What type of plastic are modern kayaks manufactured from?
3. What material are the primary WBB powerboats made from?
4. What are the two main differences between a canoe and a kayak?
5. What is a G-NAV?
6. Propellers are found on aeroplanes, what is this part called on a powerboat?

All questions have a nautical theme.

Closing date for entries is the 30th June 2007.

Make your entry,

by email to:

[enquiries@westminsterboatingbase.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@westminsterboatingbase.co.uk)

By post to: **Westminster Boating Base, 136 Grosvenor Road, London, SW1V 3JY.**

Don't forget to include your **full name** and title it as "**Newsletter No.8 Members' Competition**"

Winner will be the youth member's entry with all correct answers, drawn from a hat on 1st July 2007.

**PRIZE: £50 worth of watersports clothing for the winning youth member!**



## New additions to our Fleet

### Kayaks

For 2007 we have expanded our fleet with 4 new kayaks. These are primarily intended as intermediate boats for the larger adults. This will allow the intermediates to move on to more advanced skills. In addition to this, they will also provide modern kayaks for away trips to whitewater venues and be ideal kayaks for instructors going on training courses who need large modern boats for carrying instructional kit and demonstrating white-water rescue techniques.

### Sailing dinghies

Our sailing fleet is also being enhanced with the introduction of two RS Feva S. These are replacements for our Toppers and it is hoped there will be more to come. The Fevas are the recommended RYA junior boat and are designed to be sailed singlehandedly by adults or youths. They also have a jib option which allows them to be sailed two-up by lighter sailors. They are robust and forgiving boats, ideal for those wishing to make the move into singlehanders.



Helen Dudley test pilots one of our new dinghies.

### Powerboats

As if that wasn't enough we also acquired a 4.8 metre RIB powerboat! This was a second-hand purchase but it is in great condition having had little use and will serve as an additional powerboat for coaching sailing and is ideal for use on RYA powerboat courses.

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### Special points of interest:

- Congratulations!
- Orton Mere Slalom Kayaking Trip 18-20th May.
- Summer BBQ 29th July 2007

## A Word from your Users' Rep



Bob Feneck with Elaina Ford, your Users' Rep on the Board of Management.

Lots has happened since the last newsletter. We had a very successful Christmas party, thanks to all those that came, brought food and joined in the games. Thanks to Bob for all the fun and games.

The run-up to the season was obviously overshadowed by the tragic death of Bob on the 23rd February. The Base is not the same without him, nor is my life. I want to thank all those that helped me through these dreadful times, those first days and weeks in particular. I don't know what I would have done without the support &

kindness of all those at the Base. Events coming up include a visit to HMS Westminster in Portsmouth, with a night on-board, a Summer BBQ (details tbc), more quiz nights & potentially an Estuary sailing trip for adult and youth sailors (details tbc). This job is certainly keeping me busy!

A thank you also to those that filled in the questionnaire in January. The general consensus was that we all love the Base & the instructors, but we'd like more social events & trips. I hope you're happy with the new additions to the

calendar, & if you have any more ideas, let me know.

The Management Board has also suggested the possibility of forming a 'youth committee' that could meet regularly on an informal basis, to make sure the needs of the younger members are met. If you think this is worthwhile (or not!), or are interested in being involved in this (and are 23 or under), please get in touch - I'm around most Sundays at least, email me at [eakf@bas.ac.uk](mailto:eakf@bas.ac.uk), or contact me on the website forum.

Thank you, Elaina.



Laser sailing in the estuary

## Yalding Weir Slalom kayaking



Slalom kayaking at Yalding Weir

Four kayakers attended this trip to a venue in Kent for a national slalom kayaking event. After some intense racing on each of the days, the medal win-

ners were:

Ben Langton—Gold

Charlotte Moseley—Silver

Congratulations to all who competed.

The next slalom will be at Orton Mere 18th-20th May 2007.

You can keep up to date with the results and rankings at: [www.canoeslalom.co.uk](http://www.canoeslalom.co.uk)

## RYA Coaching

An addition to our expert team of instructional staff this season is Steve Mitchell, an RYA coach.

Steve is the RYA On-Board Development Officer for London and is joining us on Monday nights to

coach our improving youth members through seamanship, spinnaker and other advanced skills and right through to Assistant Instructor level.

Come down and get onboard!



Steve Mitchell in full swing on a Monday night.

## Summer Trips

The whitewater kayaking trip to the south of France is now full but don't worry, there are still places for our budding sailors on the Lake Winder-

mere sailing trip in late August. You need to have achieved your RYA Level 1 certificate for this so come down on Wednesday evenings to get your

sailing up to scratch. There are also places available on all of the summer courses in both sailing and kayaking.



Windermere sailing

## Congratulations!

Kat Hall, Gabby Bathgate and Lawrence Arbus successfully completed an Assistant Dinghy Instructors course. We hope to

see them demonstrating their expertise on the water soon.

Kat Hall and Mark Kitchen successfully completed an

RYA powerboat level 2 course and will no doubt be seen cruising around the Thames this season!



Sailing instruction in Lambeth Reach