



## **MAD PADDLES**

### **NEWSLETTER July 2012**

#### **Club Matters - Andrew Millest.**

After a promising sunny start in May the early summer has been a bit damp, but that hasn't discouraged club members at all! The club has been busy hosting Go Canoeing, and a come and try it event at Hurdsfield (see below), both of which were very well-attended by the general public and have resulted in us attracting several new members – welcome! Liam Gallagher has organised adults-only sessions which have also brought us some new members. If I have forgotten other initiatives I apologise, the club has been so active it is hard to keep up!

Monday and Thursday sessions have been well-attended and on behalf of the entire committee I'd like to thank all the volunteer coaches and helpers who make these sessions so enjoyable. Their teaching is paying off, with a group of younger members working their way towards a Paddle Power qualification, and Stephen Dick obtaining his 1-star.

Over the past few weeks the club has been lucky enough to receive some substantial grant funding. We are very grateful to the Macclesfield Round Table who gave us a grant to buy 10 sets of junior-size paddles. So, whenever you use one of these bright yellow little numbers please think "thank you" to the Round Table.

Sport England has also granted the club £7000 to renew our collection of ancient racing boats and buy some new racing paddles; again we are very pleased to have been successful with the application and grateful for the funding which recognises the contribution MADCC makes to racing in the northwest. Part of the deal is that we have to demonstrate to Sport England that the new boats are being used to get a lot of club members and new starters involved in racing – so we will be making opportunities for more club members to use the new kit.

Finally, the committee and coaches work hard to put on activities for members and these have been well supported. But... we would like to know from members what else they would like to see the club doing? What would you like to see more of? What would like us to do that we don't currently do? Is the format of the club sessions on Mondays and Thursdays right? Please chat to any of the coaches or committee members as we want your ideas.

#### **Hurdsfield Update - John Kavanagh**

On Sunday, May 27th the Hurdsfield Community Group held an open day at the Delamere Drive site next to the canal. The aim was to get some local feedback and comments about the proposed community centre and an outdoor centre/canoe club for Hurdsfield. There was a barbeque (two police community support officers did the cooking), a bouncy castle and rodeo ball and a folk band (The Name Escapes Me). MADCC brought two trailers of boats (one of which was lent by Brookbank Canoes) and a couple of kayak ergos from Canoe England. The event was funded by Peaks and Plains Housing Association. Over 40 locals had a go at canoeing and as the weather was really good, people enjoyed themselves. The feedback was mixed; quite a few of the residents backing on to the site were against any development of a community facility at Delamere Drive while a smaller number of those who lived close to the

site saw the proposal in a very positive light. In general those who did not live in the immediate vicinity were very much in favour of the community centre and associated outdoor activity/canoe club. There was quite a thorough write up of the event in the Macclesfield Express.

One of the things this event made clear to us was that the access to the site could be a problem for large vehicles. We are currently trying to get some advice from an architect and the Planning Department to see how serious this problem might be and how it might be overcome. We are also making enquiries with the Canals and Rivers Trust (the new name for British Waterways) about any difficulties or restrictions on building close to the canal embankment. I have also been to meetings where the Council Asset Manager explained the process of asset transfer (i.e. the land) to the community. In principle, if we can show a sustainable business plan for development of the site as a community facility then the council will give us a long lease for the land at a peppercorn rent.

In summary, MADCC is now seen by the locals as an integral part of their plans and we hope soon to get some answers to some of the practical questions that have a bearing on the feasibility of the scheme.

## **Cheshire Ring Race Results 2012**

It's 35 years since the Ring Race started, when two tourers set out to race around a new ring of canals around Cheshire and Manchester. Would they have imagined the range of boats that would eventually undertake this challenge?

If last year's race was remarkable for the fastest K1 time and the slowest ever time, this year's event was notable for its lower key nature and two feats of endurance.

This year the competitors, support crews and officials were able to luxuriate in the warmth of the Miners Arms, where the new owner, Lyn, had kindly opened her doors at 8.30 and sold hot drinks and bacon sandwiches. This was particularly pleasant given that we had two wet and miserable days.

First off was an inflatable complete with a dog! Fioan and Flossie had taken the event seriously and reconnoitred for weeks in advance. Well-supported, they battled through the night finally retiring at Red Bull, Kidsgrove after 33 hours. The slowest time was set by Mike Fennel's team in their C2 who managed to add about 1.5 hours to their previous slowest time.

We entertained 8 different categories across the 12 crews who started the race, but only 3 categories had more than one entrant. Liverpool NW Sea Cadets came with a 7-paddler team including 4 juniors. They competed in a double tourer and set a respectable time of 24h 59m 13s. They hope to return next year with two teams and go on to challenge other Sea Cadet units in future years.

Stoke Racers put up a 10-paddler racing K2 relay team and completed the race in the fastest time this year; 16h 42m 53s. Neither MADCC nor Chester managed to put together relay teams this year but there could be a great race in 2013 if all three clubs enter teams.

Macclesfield did have a representative in the shape of Neil Evans who completed his first solo K1 finish in 10 years, in a time only 3 hours slower than his personal best.

A team from Scotland, The Buccaneers, came again, this time with a female team member and improved on last year's time. Their very amusing race report can be seen here: <http://k1marsport.wordpress.com/2012/07/02/on-the-very-edge-of-the-ring-cheshire-ring-2012-race-report/>

Actually, lady paddlers were out in strength this year with the Dark Fours from Bradford on Avon "a group of ladies of a certain age, who discovered they could engage in sport and talk at the same time" (their words not mine!), finishing their 2-pair K2 relay in 20h 24m 59s.

Hull CC was here again, as they have been for the past 4 years I have been organiser of the race. Neil and Angela Jennison in a K2 and Angela's dad, Peter Dixon in a K1 unfortunately had to retire, but Stu and Andy completed the K2 all the way in 21h 29m 30s. The other K2 all

the way was Mike Rogers paddling with an almost complete novice Steve Rittey. Despite Steve's inexperience they completed in 25h 48m 27s.

John Shackleton and Colin Wilson competed in their racing C2 for the second year and drew admiring comments for their elegant paddling style and ability to portage such a long boat. Congratulations to them and everyone to took up the challenge the Ring presents.

### Overall Results

Name	Category	Time	Place
Fiona Dalzell	Inflatable K1	Retired	
N + A Jennison	K2 all the way	Retired	
P Dixon	K1 all the way	Retired	
Stu + Andy	K2 all the way	21.29.30	1st
M Rogers + S Rittey	K2 all the way	25.48.27	2nd
The Dark Fours	K2 2-pair relay	20.24.29	
J Shackleton + C Wilson	C2	21.19.20	1st
Potty Paddlers	C2	34.23.15	2nd
Stoke Racers	K2 5-pair relay	16.42.53	1st
The Buccaneers	K1 4-paddler relay	20.11.02	
NW Sea Cadets	Double tourer relay	24.59.13	

After the race weekend, MADCC received a number of messages from competitors saying how much they had enjoyed the event and how they had particularly liked the friendly and supportive atmosphere our club provided.

Finally, a special thanks to our timekeepers, Rosemary Kavanagh and Maureen Cleaver. This year, rather than roving around, I spent six and a half hours on a cold and wet canal from 4am on Sunday morning. Just remember when you get your finishing times; they would not be available if these two remarkable ladies did not drag themselves out of bed in the early hours – year after year!

Andrew Gage

### The Cheshire Ring thing

The Ring race is pretty important to the club. Newer members of MADCC may not know what it is, so I will explain.

The Cheshire Ring is a 96 mile ring of canals stretching from Marple to Northwich and Manchester to Kidsgrove. The reopening of the ring to navigation in 1977 was a triumph of the voluntary canal restoration movement of the 60s and 70s.

Poynton Canoe Club (which became MADCC) wondered whether it was possible to paddle a kayak around the newly opened 96 miles, 96 locks and 5 tunnels within 24hours. Canoeists are always practical and it is no good wondering without trying. So they did. The last weekend in June was selected for the shortest night and they raised two teams of five pairs relay

paddling double touring kayaks to make it a race. The first team finished in 20 hours and 20 minutes, the ring was possible.

It was felt to be such a great event they decided to organise the race the next year and to open it to all canoeists. It has run every year since 1977, apart from 2001, the year of the Foot and Mouth disease.

It has been paddled by champions in 15 hours and by heros in 34 hours and by lots of teams in around 21 hours.

This year MADCC organised the race but we failed to put in a team, our only representative was Neil Evans who paddled it once again, on his own in a racing K1, in 22 hours 13 minutes.

So we want to build up a club relay team, or two, for next year. Let 2013 be the year the club regains the honour of the ring. A team requires 5 adults and five juniors or females and they will have a new K2 courtesy of the Sport England grant.

So this is asking you to consider offering yourself or your child, or both to take part in a great, fun, hard work, satisfying, exciting, unique event. It's something to tell your grandchildren about and for your children to make their school mates jealous.

You do not have to be expert or super strong to do it. The ring is divided into 19 sections and the five relay pairs take it in turns to paddle. So each pair paddles for about an hour and then has four hours rest before paddling again. Each pair does 3 or 4 sections totalling about 19 miles. One of the sections will be in the dark, which is an interesting experience.

Each pair has to be an adult and a junior or female, I paddled a couple of years with my son and once with my daughter. How old does your child have to be? My son was 12 when we first paddled and looking at some of the old photos there have been younger strong paddlers.

If you are interested, or want more information to persuade mum or dad send me an email.

[chcleaver@ntlworld.com](mailto:chcleaver@ntlworld.com)

There is a lot of information on the club website [madcc.btck.co.uk](http://madcc.btck.co.uk)

But beware, the ring can be habit-forming, I have paddled it over ten times in various formats, Kerrian Rogers over 20 times.

Chris Cleaver.

## **News of ex-members – Claire Davison: Otterburn Hall 23rd July 2012**

After months of planning we set off for sunny (!! ) Newcastle. After an uneventful journey, we arrived at Claire's house to await our instructions (the jungle drums had told us there was plenty to do). We were given our orders; Paul got quite excited as he was given one hundred small jars of sweets (Haribo) until he realised our task was to tie ribbon around them. We retreated to Andrew's parent's house where I gave Paul and John (Andy's dad) a master class in tying bows (bunny ear bows to those in the know) this was complicated by the fact the ribbon had writing on one side and it had to be the right way up and out, this kept them amused for hours!! My other orders were to provide flowers for the church; Thursday morning we got up at the crack of dawn to get to the wholesale produce market, where we were able to procure a huge amount of flowers for a small amount of money. Back at base I set them to work again tying bigger bows (Paul is now an expert) and wiring small test tubs to said bows for the pew end decorations, this done we went out to celebrate. Friday was hectic; flower arrangements in church, bunting in marquee etc. etc. etc. Finally the Big Day dawned everything went well and we were all ready to go on time, Claire looked absolutely stunning (but I am biased). The bridesmaids and I set off for the church ahead of Paul and Claire (they were in a beautiful vintage Rolls Royce called Millie). We arrived at the church, but where were Paul and Claire?

The driver of the Rolls had missed the turning for the easy route for the church at Bellingham then decided to follow his satnav which instructed him to turn right up a single track road.

After following the road for one mile they came to a farm gate, which the driver duly opened and drove through, continuing on, they were now in the middle of nowhere following a river! They negotiated two more farm gates before passing through a farm and out onto the road to Bellingham. They arrived at the church slightly late, where Paul proudly walked Claire down the aisle. The service was lovely if slightly off-beat (but that's another story!). Suffice to say the priest was somewhat forgetful!! The reception was great fun with all the usual embarrassing speeches, we all had a brilliant day.



Pat Davison.

## Effortless fund raising

Have you heard about easyfundraising? It's an easy way to raise money for the club without any cost to you. We heard about this from Nottingham Kayak Club and know that Banbury Canoe Club has already raised a few hundred pounds from their members using this scheme.

If you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, Vodafone, eBay, Boden and Play.com, then you can sign up for free to easyfundraising and raise money while you shop.



### So how does it work?

You shop directly with the retailer as you would normally, but if you sign up to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/madcc> for free and use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to MADCC at no extra cost to yourself. Have a look at the website and you will see that loads of clubs across a range of sports are already signed up to the scheme.

### How much can you raise?

Spend £100 with M&S online or Amazon and you raise £2.50 for MADCC. £100 with WH Smith puts £2.00 in the club's fund and so on. There are over 2,000 retailers on the easyfundraising site, and some of the donations can be as much as 15% of your purchase price.

### Save money too!

easyfundraising is free to use, plus you'll get access to hundreds of exclusive discounts and voucher codes, so not only will you be helping the club, you could also be saving money yourself.

Sign up at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/madcc> and start making a difference...simply by shopping.

Andrew Millest.

## Monday Night Paddling – a different venue

With the longer summer evenings Paul suggested changing the venue from Bollington to the River Goyt so that his 2\* paddlers could try out all those paddle strokes and body-boat positions where they actually mattered; on moving water. This was set for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July and would use a short section of the river from the bridge on Lakes Road to the measuring weir at Brabyns Park.

The final group consisted of Alex, Charlotte, Alan Tonge, Paul, Alan Armstrong, Rory and Nigel (in a kayak!). Dave and Mike delivered paddlers and helped with the shuttle.

Despite recent serious rainfall around the country the river level was just right, enough to cover the boulder areas but not wash them out, however recent tree falls made the get in inaccessible so we used the ledge at the side of the weir and everyone had the instruction to start with the left knee up, do two quick turns and tuck in on the right hand side.

Below the rapid the serious coaching started; ferry gliding, breaking in, breaking out and reverse gliding followed by eddy hopping down the river and a short run to the main weir above Marple Bridge which was successfully negotiated by everyone. On the way down Nigel did a quick demonstration of the consequences of catching the wrong edge (a swim - hence the write-up forfeit). This was followed by a gentle drift to the measuring weir which had enough flow on the side chutes for everyone but Alan A who did the main chute, we got out immediately after and with help from the dads climbed the bank and carried up to the cars for a 9:30 finish. Just short of 2 hours on the water and a good time for all involved – Well done to all and congratulations to Paul for a great idea.

Nigel Kinge.

## Swanning about on the Weaver

A fun report of an idyllic night's paddling (with no beer at the finish- boo)

'Ok, how about a flat water trip', I need to get out on the water before the Conway Ascent. That's me ringing Chris Wood, my hill walking, paddling and boozing mate. 'Sounds good' says he, 'how about the Weaver?' It sounded good to me as well, so all was planned for early June, an early start, a gentle paddle downstream, and a few pints at the finish. Mmm. The start didn't go well, we were late away, due to my insistence on bacon sarnies before the off, and it was 19.00 before we arrived at the Winsford Flashes start point. You probably know how the flashes were formed; the underground caverns from where the salt had been mined, collapsed and eventually filled with rain. At one time, they were called the Cheshire Broads,



and boat hire was popular.

When we got there, a group of juniors were happily paddling around under the watchful eye of their tutor plus many doting parents. It was a lovely scene, but we had no time for beauty, we were on a mission. The first few miles were interesting, with old warehouse and cranes straddling the banks, and it stayed this way for about an hour until the first lock at Vale Royal. This was fun, a nice walk past the Lock Keepers' Cottage then a gentle pontoon entry. Hey it's easy this paddling lark. More gentle paddling with me trying to keep up with Chris, him in his river boat and me in the shorty fun Piranha. Anyway, it was still light, no need to rush, and the thought of beer at the finish was on both paddlers' minds. Another half hour paddling brought us to the second exit at Hunts Lock, Chris had checked the info and it stated 'exit on the left, pass under the arches and it's on the right'. Could we find this get in! We

searched this way and that, ending up in a housing estate and becoming befriended by a lovely lady who thought we were off a Tug Boat! No we are paddling in kayaks said Chris. 'What are kayaks' replied our new best friend. Chris tried to explain, she thought we were from Mars and went inside for help. Her husband sorted things, the get in is right under the arches he explained; clever chap, he knew what kayaks were! It wasn't the friendliest of get-ins; the drop was about 2 meters but we made and were soon away.

'That pint is looking a bit dodgy' said river boat man, 'just keep paddling' says fun boat man, 'We might just make it'. Ha-ha, brave words, little did we know that the Swan from Hell was



waiting.

He caught up with us after about a mile from the get in. 'Stay left' shouts Chris, 'there's a family of swans and cygnets on the right'. O.k., so we both hug the left hand bank; Chris paddled through without problem, then blow me, mother starts to bring the family of around 10 cygnets over towards me. Dad didn't like this; in fact it was like a white Concorde coming towards me. He meant business, so I put in a bit of a sprint expecting to leave him behind. No such luck, he caught up and tried to bite my right ear off. 'Bit of a problem here' I thought and tried to outrun him again. Another peck and I realised he didn't like me! Like a twerp. I tried to put distance between us, while splashing him as best I could. Credit where due, he wouldn't give up until I just missed him with the paddle. By then we had left his family far behind, clearly he was just up for the sport. Chris sat back and watched the fun, smirking, 'I don't think he liked you'. Yeah, yeah; dead funny.

On we paddled, by now deep into the gloaming, with me keen to see the Anderton Boat Lift.



There's always something you wanted to see but never did, for me this was it. We could just make it out in the by now near-darkness, and very imposing it looked. Must get back and do it properly one day. On the home leg now; a new one for me, paddling in Stygian darkness. The night stillness was suddenly broken by the sound of a mobile going somewhere behind me; perhaps Chris had arranged a late night special with mine host at Acton Bridge. No such luck, and when he caught up it was my turn to smirk. Sheepishly he explained it was his Mum; he leaves his long boat round with her, and she was worried he hadn't showed up. Nice to know a 45 year old still causes his Mum problems! Hee-hee. One more lock at Saltersford, and again a tricky 2 meter drop in. No problems and it was then a dash to the finish. A pity really, as I was actually enjoying this midnight paddling, a new experience to tick off on my to-do list. The finish was in sight, and no, my Leader had not arranged that late night pint. Not surprising, it was about 00.30! All that remained was to leg it back to get my car, and home to bed. That exit from the Winsford Car park is tricky, why have they built that concrete so tight and high? Fortunately no damage done and that was it, the end of a boys fun night out. Think I'll forgo the bacon sarnies next time, the beer is much more important.

Quentin Blagg

## To all Members

I used to belong to MADCC many years ago but had to give up paddling because of poor health.

Now, 10 years later, I am well enough to paddle and so I decided to re-join the Club. I was extremely nervous about meeting everyone again. That nervousness proved unfounded. The welcome I was given was second to none - fantastic! I immediately felt part of the Club and honoured to be a member once more.

I have noticed several changes that have taken place during my absence over the last 10 years - all to the good! There is a greater emphasis on encouraging families and juniors; decent boats can be hired; there is a more structured approach to gaining qualifications and a greater variety of different disciplines to be tried - whitewater, gentle rivers, touring, Canadian canoeing, marathon, racing, group events (Cheshire Ring) etc. - and anyone showing an interest can have a go. In addition, I believe the number of members has increased significantly. The most notable change, however, has been MADCC's website which is so informative and makes great reading.

One of the things that hasn't changed is the friendliness of the Club.

I am so glad to be a member once again and look forward to many years of paddling with you all. Thanks MADCC!

Jill Harfield

## **Carpe Diem**

I don't often seize the day but I did last year and this year.

The first was to volunteer as a Gamesmaker, to help at the Olympics. I filled in the online application in early 2011 and attended an interview in Spring 2011. I sat back and awaited an offer of a prestige position. VIP meet and greeter (but does not have to remember names) was my ideal. But with my luck it could have been a lavatory cleaner. It is one of the rules you agree to, to accept whatever job, at whatever place and for whichever games. For months I did not hear anything. For more months I still did not hear anything. The website said they were dealing with 250,000 volunteers for 76,000 positions. In spring this year I was tired of uncertainty and decided to seize my own summer and I withdrew my application.

But there was a consolation prize. Circulated by the club was a request for a volunteer to help paddle a canoe in the Diamond Jubilee Thames Pageant. I seized that day and volunteered. Sheena Tyler had entered an electric powered double kayak Green Admiral in the pageant and wanted a paddler for reserve power. I was excited to be part of this national event. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Getting to the event was not plain sailing. We had to be security vetted, filling in a form and taking our passports to the accreditation. Sheena also had some technical problems. Because it was a kayak Green Admiral put in the kayak section but then the PLA (Port of London Authority) realised it had a motor and thought there was a safety problem. Eventually they agreed the kayak size was more significant than an electric motor, and we stayed in the kayak section.

On Saturday afternoon we met at Shadwell Watersport Centre for accreditation and the safety briefing by PLA, this stressed the need to maintain four knots speed or drop out. That was why I was there, to boost the electric outboard. All the other kayaks were there, some being decorated.

We were back at the centre at 7.30 on Sunday morning and on the beach at 8.30 ready for the paddle up to Chelsea. We got on the water with the others but unfortunately the out board drive kept lifting out of the water and did not power us along. The others were waiting to set off with the tide and I had to make the decision to go or not. We had to abandon. As we went back to the beach the others set off paddling to glory and to see the Queen.

After the weekend I got sick of telling my friends why they had not seen me on television.

Crape Diem

Chris Cleaver.

## **The Irwell in summer**

Another English June – several days of rain; all the rivers running high!

We had hoped to organise a gentle beginners' paddle, but it was not to be. So instead Alan, Rob and Bill took the opportunity of the water level and the warm weather to paddle the Irwell from Ramsbottom to Bury.

Meeting at the Burrs, we were joined by two paddlers from Oldham, and shuttled up to Nuttall Park. The river was at a nice level. High enough to give an interesting paddle, with plenty of break-in and break-out practise, and waves to surf.

The gorge section was an interesting ride, needing concentration to find the best route ahead. We tried surfing the wave under the bridge but it was awkward to get onto - and rather a rough ride if you did. The left hand route over the low weir was a bit rocky – the middle might have been better at this level.

At the big weir, Alan looked over the lip and checked that the way was clear. A good slide down, preceding a cooling splash through the wave at the bottom. At the next main chute, several of the large boulders had been moved by the water, so the chute was wider and, with a couple of the boulders now just below it, the wave had changed and was not so good at today's water level.

The chute under the road bridge was moving fast. Attempts at surfing it led to two capsizes which, with the high water, made draining out and re-entry a challenge. As often happens, the wave at the get-out was working nicely; 'must I get out now - or shall I have just one more ride?'

It was good to have a warm summer trip with plenty of water!

Bill Fox.

## **Lleyn weekend**

This year Brian Hamer has again reserved the sea view camping field at Penrallt Coastal Campsite on the Lleyn peninsula for August bank holiday (24th to 27th August).

This is always a brilliant family weekend with several excellent surfing beaches in the area.

Tariff per night: Single person tent £10; Tent with two people £12; Electric hook up £3; Additional adult £4, additional child £2

Website: [www.penrallt.co.uk](http://www.penrallt.co.uk)

Please let Brian know as soon possible if you would like to come together with details of your party and whether you require electricity. Brian will also require a non refundable deposit of £10 per pitch.

## **Racing News**

During spring and summer, MADCC members have been active in races in the northwest and other regions. We have competed in all the regional Hasler races, the Windermere lake race, the Conwy, and others. It has been brilliant to see some of the younger members like James Withers and Charlotte Storm making the big jump from paddling 2km in Lightnings to 4 miles in K1s and performing really creditably – it would be good to see other younger members having a go at racing. James and Charlotte are great examples of paddlers who enjoy paddling both race boats and messing about in plastics – skills learned in each type of boat make them better all-round paddlers.

The MADCC Adelphi Hasler race was a great success; with 54 competitors it was our biggest race for several years. It was good to welcome a contingent from Duddon CC to their first flat water race – they have in turn invited us to come to the white water races they organise later in the year. The food and drink stall that Rachael Clarke and a team of helpers organised really added to the event – and the cakes were clearly delicious as none were left at the end of the event!

MADCC Lightning paddlers were triumphant in the northwest 2011/2012 series winning the team trophy. Special congratulations to Charlie Cooke and Mason Roberts who were both overall winners in their age groups.



Reproduced below is the series organiser's (Carol Hatton, Chester CC) report:

A big thank you to all the lightning paddlers who have paddled this year - in total we had 27 juniors taking part in the series which is fantastic.

The North West Lightning series takes in all the races in the North West and this year that was a total of 6 races at Chester, Macclesfield, Trentham & Runcorn.

The winners for this year are:

U10 Boys	Mason Roberts	MAD
U12 Boys	Charlie Cooke	MAD
U12 Girls	Rona Fishburn	Chester

Team trophy: Macclesfield

Congratulations to Charlie Cooke from Macclesfield, who attended all 6 events, and also to Rona Fishburn of Chester who got maximum points in all her races.

The great thing this year is a lot of the juniors have attended more races. Last year Chester won the team trophy with 222 points and this year Chester, Macclesfield & Trentham have all finished with more points than this. The team trophy was contested up to the last race with Macclesfield going into the last race 13 points ahead of Chester and Trentham coming through strongly in the last few races, but Macclesfield put in a strong performance to win convincingly.

Many thanks to all the coaches, helpers and parents who have made this happen.

The 1st race of the next series is at Chester on the 9th September. Hope to see you all there.

Carol Hatton.

## Sea kayaking – Dubrovnik style

In early April, Caroline and I had a long weekend visiting the ancient town of Dubrovnik, a walled town almost surrounded by the shining Adriatic Sea. With the thermometer reading 30 degrees and the sea already at 20 degrees we needed to get out on the water. A bit of internet research before we went said there was a kayak hire shop in the town and we eventually found and the owner and booked a double kayak for the next day. It was a sit-on top... but just brilliant for the mirror-calm sea conditions. The owner asked if we needed him to come and give us some lessons but we declined as we sculled away from the jetty, drawing the comment "I see you are professionals" before he headed back to the nearby bar.

We paddled around the town close under the walls attracting envious gazes from the hot and sweaty cruise ship tour groups, then headed across to the nearby (700m) wooded island of Lokrum where we had lunch at the old monastery and later swam from the rocks in the clear blue sea.



There are times when being “a professional paddler” and having the skill and confidence to head out on the water come in really handy!

Andrew Millest