



# B.C.U Lifeguards

## Chairman's Welcome

Welcome all to the new-look newsletter for BCU. Lifeguards. We are very fortunate that we have a new editor willing to take on what can be a time consuming job. Well the new face behind our newsletter is Kevin Calderon, who I'm sure is a familiar face to many of you. So next time you look at a copy of the newsletter, picture him piecing together all the parts that make it a worthwhile read about lifeguard issues and antics, as well as it being a useful conduit of information for us all.

Now Kevin may be able work his magic with fonts, graphics and images but he needs the content to come from us. So please forward any stories, write ups of lifeguard covers, kit reviews, biographies, profiles and anything else you can think might be useful. Share the knowledge as well as the laughs!

I also hope you all have a great paddling season and return in the spring for our next convention. It's going to be an exciting year!

Andy Walters

## Steve Hobbs awarded 'Honary Chief Lifeguard'

The Honary Chief Lifeguard is awarded on rare occasions where the BCU Lifeguard Committee want to recognise the dedication and commitment of an individual within lifeguards, and to thank them for all they have done. who has been dedicated to lifeguarding in the sense they have put many years of effort to help others.

Someone who has spent many hours of his time dedicated to Lifeguards, both at a national and

local level is Steve Hobbs. As a token of our appreciation for all Steve's time and effort over the years the National Committee have great pleasure in awarding him with the prestigious 'Honary Chief Lifeguard' award.

Steve has been involved in the national committee for several years and on behalf of BCU Lifeguards I would like to say a huge thank you to him.

I have shared a few of

the comments I received about Steve below:

*"Steve has dedicated much time to both the local unit and national team over the years"*

*"He never shirked a task and worked tirelessly on behalf the National Committee"*

*"Yet all of this and we at GAFIRS wonder how he still manages not to have a single grey hair!! what's the secret Steve?"*

Thank-you Steve.

### Inside this issue

- > Unit News
- > London Triathlon Information
- > Revised Lifeguard Core Module
- > Updated Website
- > Convention Information
- > The Updated Committee Contacts



### National Dates

Convention (1)  
8th - 10th May

Sherbourne  
6th - 7th Sept

Convention (2)  
12th - 14th Sept

### Unit Dates

London Triathlon  
9th - 10th August  
(Herts)

## Unit News

### GAFIRS

Recently GAFIRS have been fortunate to receive 6 new Kayak's to replace some of their ageing craft, with the assistance of the BCULG National Committee and various local companies. The organisation has purchased two Shark Millennials, one Selki and three plastic kayak's. In addition GAFIRS has donated three of its old Sharks to Globe360, a new lifeguard unit.

In keeping with many of the BCULG affiliated clubs GAFIRS is also a 365/24/7 independent life-boat, and last year (2007) marked the launch of a new Inshore Patrol and Rescue Craft – The Cam's Cutter (Gosport Rescue 3) a 4.5m Avon with 60hp Mercury engine. The craft will be used for local patrols and also training of the crews.

We are also hoping to get our other major projects, a boathouse annexe and construction of a new primary rescue craft, completed in 2008



### HEREFORD CANOE LIFEGUARDS

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of October saw Geoff Scrivener, Mike Rose and myself training and assessing several members of Hereford Canoe Club for Assistant Lifeguard and Lifeguard Core Module.

Nick James-Williams their leader had already passed the Assistant Lifeguard award at Upton Warren earlier in the year and was keen to progress to Core Module Level. He and his group must have been keen, the water was bitterly cold.

Nick & Pete are both First Aid Trainers with the Red Cross so crossing over to AFA Level 1 Coach should not be too far away. Having passed the Core Module, Nick's BCU Coaching level allows him to jump straight up to Level 2 Lifeguard Coach, an excellent start for this up and coming Lifeguard Unit.

Dave Wyatt

*The BCU Lifeguards welcomes  
Hereford Canoe Lifeguards*



**Have you seen the NEW  
BCU Lifeguards Website?**

**Visit:**

[www.bculifeguards.org.uk](http://www.bculifeguards.org.uk)

**Newsletter Content**

Do you have something you would like included in the newsletter? A cover report, event write up or piece of personal or unit news you wish to share with the BCU Lifeguards? If so please e-mail it to [newsletter@bculifeguards.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bculifeguards.org.uk) for inclusion.

## HERTS CANOE LIFEGUARDS

### Proud to be Chairman.

I do believe that I was possibly "hoodwinked" into becoming Chairman of Herts Canoe Lifeguards at one distant AGM; however; here I am and I could not be prouder of any unit.

We have always had a good base of committed individuals who most of you are aware off but do to circumstances people have had to move on. We were getting to the stage when numbers were falling and recruitment was not easy. Tally Ho the Rookies! We have been blessed with an astonishing group of young people all of whom have devoted time and energy into the unit. We had a good start with two "young" Martins who I am pleased to say are still with us and doing even better things. We then had an influx of young people who were keen to both participate in training and then happy to come along to covers despite of some early starts (DW race)

Most of you will have come across our "rookies" whether it is at the National Championships, on covers or as you can see on the National Committee. Our lads and now lassies (not sure if this is due to the lads!) have brought a wealth of fun, help and time to us at Herts.

During last year it become increasingly apparent that further equipment was required. We were fortunate enough to be advised that there was the possibility of grants to young people within Hertfordshire to secure funding for various projects. Our guys were up for this and with a little help (and only a little) they wrote and submitted two successful bids. The outcome will be 6 new sharks and I believe 10/12 VHF radios. I think you will agree not a bad tally for a group of young people who are constantly pillared as useless by the press. I hasten to add not our guys but young people in general.

I have sung the praises of the young ones but I have to say our "old uns" continue to do me proud for which I thank them all. We have a highly active unit both in covers and on a social side whether it is our Christmas dinner or a bike ride to lose the weight gained on the previous night at the dinner.

I am truly grateful to all members of HCL who support me in every way. I count them amongst my friends and trust and respect them all. I sincerely hope that we can move onto bigger and better things in 2008 and wish them well for the New Year.

On a final note it is one of our young people who has taken on the role of publisher for this news letter. I would urge you all to find time just to write a brief article to enable all units to know what is going on within our field.

Malcolm Ferris-Lay  
Chairman.

### Lifeguard Core Module

Up until now the minimum age for the Core Module has been 16. It has been noticed that there is a two year age gap between when younger members can gain their Assistant Lifeguard at 14 and their Core Lifeguard Award at 16. The committee felt that this gap meant that anyone aged between 14-16 with their Assistant Lifeguard had no award to aim for in the immediate future. The committee have looked at this and have revised the criteria slightly.

**Revision:** If you currently hold your Assistant Lifeguard Award and are under 16, you can now take the Lifeguard assessment with the approval of your unit Chairman/Training Officer and/or the NTO.

### BCU Lifeguard Convention

#### 9th-11th May 2008

An exciting convention is being held at HYMB in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. This is an event for all ages looking to gain qualifications in various areas of lifeguarding including first aid, core module and coaching awards. Details of more depth can be found at [www.bculifeguards.org.uk](http://www.bculifeguards.org.uk) OR the poster attached to this newsletter.

## The BCU Lifeguard Website...

The National Committee are pleased to announce the launch of the brand new BCU Lifeguards website for 2008. The website has a new design and feel, as well as improved content and information.

We've changed the design to come into line with our other promotional materials and updated the contents and resources available to you.

On the website you can now find:

- Up-to-date information/news
- Latest resources/awards
- Full details of all BCU LG awards
- Details of BCU LG units and clubs
- Training and Event Dates
- Photo Gallery

Later in the year we will be including more information, features and resources. We are also introducing our new e-newsletter sign-up, allowing you to receive these newsletters and other national updates directly into your e-mail inbox. Please sign up for them via the website.

The address is [www.bculifeguards.org.uk](http://www.bculifeguards.org.uk)

Your comments, feedback and ideas are also welcome. Please e-mail us at [web@bculifeguards.org.uk](mailto:web@bculifeguards.org.uk).

## The London Triathlon

### Do you want to be a part of the biggest triathlon in the world?

On the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> August 2008 The London Triathlon takes part in the heart of London at the Royal Victoria Docks. Herts Canoe Lifeguards are looking for a team of 70 Lifeguards to assist with the swim safety for the event.

You will receive a £50 donation from The London Triathlon per day for your time, plus travelling expenses, accommodation and food. You must be a competent paddler and hold at least a CST award. It is preferred if you can provide your own boat and ideally a rescue shark, however, this is not absolutely necessary. NOTE: Play boats/low volume kayaks are not acceptable as you may need to support swimmers on your boat.

## Committee

### Chairman

Andy Walters  
[Chairman@bculifeguards.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@bculifeguards.org.uk)

### Vice Chairman

Martin Suzan  
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### Publicity Officer

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### Treasurer

Andy Squirrel  
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### Junior Representative

Kevin Calderon  
[juniorrep@bculifeguards.org.uk](mailto:juniorrep@bculifeguards.org.uk)

### Elected Member

John Wheeler  
**Elected Member**  
Des Merrigan

# NEW BCU Lifeguards Website



**New for  
2008**

- Latest news and updates
- New content and resources
- Fully updated awards syllabi
- Event dates and details
- Sign up to receive e-newsletters & updates

**[www.bculifeguards.org.uk](http://www.bculifeguards.org.uk)**



# **BCU Lifeguards - Convention**

**Venue:** Herts Young Mariners Base,  
Cheshunt

**Cost:** TBA

**A wide range of courses will be running, including:**

- Canoe Safety Test
- Assistant Lifeguard (Training and Assessment)
- Core Lifeguard Module (Training and Assessment)
  - Aquatic First Aid
  - Paediatric Resus
  - Primary First Aid



**Note:** Courses will run subject to availability of trainers and demand.

**Accommodation:** To keep costs down this will be a camping event, however, indoor accommodation is available, at an extra cost. Please contact us for details.

**Food:** Self catering (lunch will be provided)

For more details please visit [www.bculifeguards.org.uk](http://www.bculifeguards.org.uk)  
or e-mail [convention@bculifeguards.org.uk](mailto:convention@bculifeguards.org.uk)

**9th - 11th May 2008**