

Christmas meal 08
Scotland extracts
Tesco Falls
Double D(artmoor)
River Audit 2008
Monster on the Moor



Kingfisher
Canoe Club

November/December 2008

Trashar



Ben Williams on the Blackwater, Scotland 2008

U HEARD IT HERE...

Want to send info to the Trasher?

Send images and words to kcc.
trasher@gmail.com or send a CD to:
Trasher HQ, 3, Rose Avenue, Abingdon
OX14 1XX

Membership is now due

Please pay a.s.a.p.

Monthly Meetings

Seeing as the Fox (Steventon) has re-opened and the food appears to be both reasonable and cheap the monthly meetings will continue to be held there on the first Wednesday of each month. So come along, have a pint and find out whats going on.

Lost and Found

A throw line was lost down at the club hut, if you've picked it up could you let me know and I'll get its owner in touch with you.

Someone left a black protec helmet and a nose clip at one of the pool sessions. Get in touch with Roger Whiltshire to be repatriated with them.

Pool Sessions

The next KCC pool sessions aren't until Thursday 8th January, then the 12th Feb and 5th of March.

Scottish Sea Symposium

If any of you sea kayakers out there are interested in the 2009 Scottish Sea Kayak Symposium on 22-25 May. I have details which I can pass on.

Random Requests

I've received an e-mail from some planning consultants who are considering submitting an application to build some canoe storage facility in central Oxford (on the Botley Road I think) and are looking to gauge interest in this idea. If anyone wants to know more let me know and I'll pass on the details.

Costa Rica Talk

Dave Surmans talk and presentation on this summers trip to Costa Rica went down well on Tuesday night.

Thanks to all those who attended, There was a good turn out to hear Dave's eclectic ramblings on the flora, fauna and food of Costa Rica. The bits on paddling and recommendations on which hospital is best to visit in an emergency were good too!

Following this Dave then proceeded to give us a recap of his previous trip in 2004, double bubble!

Steep Creeking Technique

Dave Surman is thinking about organising a days steep creeking training with the Gene17. He needs 4 people to fill the course which would work out at approx £56 each. This will probably be either on the 24th or 25th of Jan. Let Dave know if your interested.

Dart Coach Update

I've been asked to give as much publicity as possible for this event taking place at the River Dart Country Park on the 25th January 2009. Details and booking forms are also available at www.bcusw.org.

HONEST DAVE'S DODGY DEALZ!!

CREDIT CRUNCH SPECIALS!!

SAVE WITH DAVE!!

DEAL ONE. Strut your stuff and hitch a ride on gravity's coat tails with.....

Pyranha S6X £250ish O.N.O

DEAL TWO. No more goosebumps just get goosebumps with this....

Pyranha Burn (blue Large) Used only 3 times, almost new. Bargain at £500

DEAL THREE. Ride the bumps on the Grand Couloir with the coolest powder hounds south of the Thames River on a....

Week skiing at Meribel. Sleeper coach and apartment in party of fourteen. £450

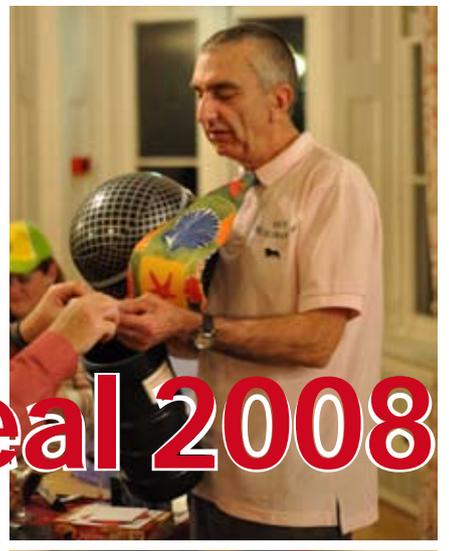
All these deals I am only the agent. Contact me and I will put you in touch. You know you want to dudes!!

davidsurman@hotmail.com
01865 373115.

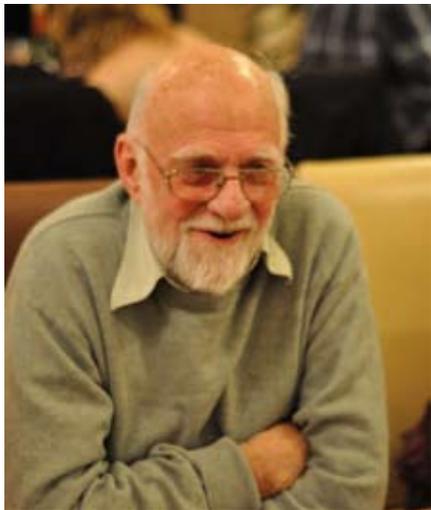
And hey notice the correct use of apostrophes!!

KCC Christmas meal 2008





KCC Christmas meal 2008



Trash your diary!!!

<p>January 2009</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Monthly Meeting: 20:30 at The Fox Inn, 29 High Street, Steventon OX13 6RZ 8 KCC Pool Session 9 10 11 12</p>	<p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>February 2009</p> <p>1 2 3 4 Monthly Meeting: 20:30 at The Fox Inn, 29 High Street, Steventon OX13 6RZ 5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p>	<p>12 KCC Pool Session 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>
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Pool dates...

For information, all pool session dates are shown below for 2008/2009. Please note that KCC members only have access on the KCC dates:

JAN	01 XMAS	08 KCC	15 PF	22 SCOUTS	29 SCOUTS
FEB	05 SCOUTS	12 KCC	19 1/2 TERM	26 PF	
MAR	05 KCC	12 PF	19 SCOUTS	26 SCOUTS	
APR	2 SCOUTS	09 EASTER			

Kayak by Seth literary works

Wow check this out I've managed to marry my two vocations into one item - its a poem about kayaking.

Its actually a triolet, and the rules of the form are: eight lines of eight beats where lines 1,4 and 7 are the same as eachother and lines 2 and 8 are the same as eachother, with lines 3, 5 and 6 all being different to both lines 1, 4, and 7 and lines 2 and 8 and different to eachother. The rhyme scheme is abaaabab.

Tricky, huh? Anyway, here it is:

Kayaking Triolet

'Cos the rush of adrenaline,
crisp cold freezing, frothy water.
The tightness of sti neoprene.
'Cos the rush of adrenaline,
and the swirling eddies, serene,
worked in a hole if you falter.
'Cos the rush of adrenaline,
crisp cold freezing, frothy water.

Abingdon Gauging Station aka Tesco Falls

A guide to paddling

A mile or so up the Ock beyond the often-visited weir where the old St Helen's mill-stream rejoins the river lies another weir where these two streams split. This is the Abingdon Gauging Station and it consists of a concrete slope with a dividing wall positioned about a third of the way across to divide the two streams. To get there you can paddle up the mill-stream which usually has enough water except when the bottom weir is not running. Arriving this way at the weir kayakers can portage from just below a footbridge round the back of the weir and seal-launch back in. Open boaters can climb up the wall at the weir and line their boats up the weir and re-enter under another small footbridge. The alternative route up the river is shallow, except after heavy rain, but it makes an interesting challenge for open boaters to pole up. Portage is difficult approaching from this stream but when the flow is low it is possible to walk up the face of the weir and line boats up and across into the other channel. From this weir there is a further pleasant half-mile paddle up to the pagoda and mill pool in the grounds of New Cut Mill. Returning towards the Thames you have the choice of paddling down the



mill-stream and shooting the weir at St Helen's wharf or ducking under the footbridge at the gauging station and dropping into the narrow right-hand gully that is the river. This veers sharply right and can be tricky when there is significant flow. The whole circuit makes a pleasant Sunday morning trip in many seasons but is particularly good in autumn with the leaves changing colour. On your way you can talk to the many people who walk the footpath up to Tesco's and count supermarket trolleys dumped in the water (the current count is 12)

Perhaps KCC can mount a recovery plan together with Tesco's? Any volunteers to help me?

Enjoy – Alastair Wilson



- Andy and I made the long drive home whilst everyone
- else headed to Lynmouth with the intention of spending
- Sunday on the East Lyn.
- Today I hurt, I think I bounced off a few rocks whilst
- swimming but the bruises will fade and I wouldn't of
- missed it for the world.

Saturday night brought on the entertainment. A re-mastered 80's paddling/skiing/power ballad. I'm that could only of be made by Germans – Family Mad. A I'm on waterfalls in Iceland (looked scary) and the 60 degrees North Greenland Presentation with Graham Milton (looked masochistic). All of this was finished off with some tunes that made break my pledge to never dance along to the Wurzzells again. What a merry band we make



Sunday morning was cold. Very cold and despite Louise's best breakfast this and too much beer the night before made us break all the arrangements we had mad the night before to head up to the East Lyn and go walking instead.

Apparently the river was actually going quite well, ah well. We had fun and found a huge teashop complex, complete with aviary, at the end of the Dartmeet car park



KINGFISHER RIVER AUDIT 2008!!

By popular demand here is the list of all the rivers paddled by KCC members in 2008 and immortalized in the Christmas River Race. If your river's not included it's because you didn't tell me, or I've forgotten.

by Dave Surman

ENGLAND

Dart
West Dart
Erme
Plym
Tavy
Walkham
East Lyn
Washburn
Yare
Teme
Hamble
Cherwell
Thames
Ock
Thame

SCOTLAND

Gaur
Garbh Gaoir
Garry
Tay
Isla
Tummel
Blackwater
Etive
Alt Mheurran
Orchy
Arkaig
Spean
Morrison

WALES

Nedd Fechan
Mellte
Conwy
Ogwen
Llugwy
Lledr
Tryweryn
Tawe
Wye
Usk
Tywi (L. Brianne)

ITALY

Sessia
Sermanza
Canale Grande
San Bernardino
SWITZERLAND
Verzasca
Rovanna
Ribo
Cammobino
Isorno

NORWAY

Skjoli
Nykdalselva
Finna
Raundelselva
Sjoa
Rauma
Grouva
Driva
Otta
Visa

INDIA

Ganges
Pindar
Aleknanda
Mandakini
Sutlej
Tons
Yamuna

NEPAL

Kali Gandaki

COSTA RICA

Pacuare
Reventazon
Orosi
Sarapiqui
Pejibije
Toro

UGANDA

Nile

PERU

Tamopoto

Dave Surman in Costa Rica



THIS EDITION'S COMPETITION. Tick off as many of these as you've done!! The winner wins a cream tea with a famous paddler of your choice!! WOW!!
Entries email davidsurman@hotmail.com

MONSTER RAIN ON THE MOOR

Dave Surman

Okay so you get the picture. You really should be having a little lie in on Saturday morning and then doing jobs around the house that never seem to get done. And then it comes. The news that a monster amount of rain is coming in over Dartmoor on Friday night! Suddenly the midweek phone/email procedure swings into place to round up a posse.

Plans are hatched and rehatched up to 11 o'clock on the Friday night and a rendezvous in Ashburton is achieved at 10am.

One look at the amount of water in the fields and the colour of the water brimming over the banks of the rivers on the way down has convinced us that today is the day to go high and do all those things that never have any water.

Mark, Chris, Andy and a Mystery Man were in the car park at Ashburton intent on grabbing the Triple Crown of the Plym, Erme and Upper Dart.

Doug and Robbo made up the Essex Contingent with Dave Hodge, Seth, Chris from Norwich, Dave S, Simon and Andy Wicks. Whilst the Triple Crowners shot off, the rest of us decided to grab a first for us the Upper Upper Plym. This involves a walk in of a mile or so carrying your boat to catch the run off from the top of the moor.

We met up with the other party quite by chance at Cadover Bridge. At this point Chris suggested that the Mystery Man might like to join us on our run rather than on their heavy duty Upper Plym mission. From this we assumed that it was someone they knew. It was only later that we discovered that he had pursued Mark and Heather from the motorway, saying that he thought things might be a bit too high for him, but he would come and have a look.

At the get on for the high running grade 5 Upper Plym he was wanting to get on!!

Driving on over the moor we eventually found the car park from which to start the walk in. After carrying our boats for a mile we were rewarded by a narrow interesting run, not too technically difficult for the most part but with a few interesting technical sections to spice up the "starter" as Seth put it.

Back at Cadover Bridge we noticed the level was dropping fast and so we decided to go to check the level of the Erme at Ivybridge. On arrival we found a great level.

Robbo was returning to kayaking after a twenty year break and after paddling the section down to the Slot n Drop he decided discretion was the better part of valour and walked out.

I forgot how many good drops there are on the section above the gorge. I knew things were hotting up when Chris from Norwich broke his paddles, hand rolled up and was thrown another pair all within sight of the massive viaduct that towers above and marks the entrance to the Erme Gorge.



I always feel intimidated by the entrance. I don't know if it's the viaduct, the narrowness or the rhododendron clad banks that conspire with the depth of the walls to shut out the light towards the end of the day.

Anyway, in we went and it all went really well, although Simon had an opportunity to do a little body surfing amongst the rocks at the end.

An exhilarating run but as it says in the book "it isn't over till the fat lady sings". Well she didn't so much sing as bawl at me!! The Town Falls under the bridge in Ivybridge is an easy one to underestimate. It's at the very end, you feel you've done the hard stuff and earned that cappuccino at the end. It's easy to forget that in the darkness under the bridge there lurks a huge hole on the right. Add to this a few randomly distributed rocks under the water at various places in the rapid and you have an interesting recipe.

I came in from the left and was intending to stay there. Unfortunately a rock spun me off line and sent me over to a micro eddy on the right from which it was more difficult to exit with style and dignity! I opted for a sneaky little slide on the far right. Unfortunately I couldn't regain the left line and found myself via a body jarring rock which I hit head on. I was then faced with the enormous hole which I had no option but to try and punch. I ended up with another body jarring rock impact which meant that I was side surfing the hole for what seemed like eternity. I tried the usual techniques to try and move it along the stopper and then to get one end in to try and pop out but once the Burn's in a hole it seems to like to stay there. Eventually my concentration went and I parted company with my craft!

After an interesting throwline rescue where the line came to me via a tree on the opposite bank, I stood on the side to watch come down and end up in the very same hole. It was déjà vu as he side surfed and moved the boat back and forwards and then all of a sudden, out he came, body and boat as one!

We were losing the light as we hauled our boats into the car park at Ivybridge at the end of the run. It was there that I noticed another modification of the autobooft facility of my Burn. This coupled with my limping egress, Simon nursing his bruised body, Andy W feeling the after effects of trying to remodel the river bed with his head and the two halves of Chris' paddle it felt like the end of "Family Mad."

And so at the end of Day 1 the day trippers were dispatched off home whilst to the two centre weekenders set off over Dartmoor towards Exmoor and the Holy Grail of the East Lyn.

Arriving in Lynton is like going back 30 years. Where else would you get mock tudor buildings and signs declaring that they reserve the right to refuse admission to "unruly elements" and warning you that "the playing of transistor radios is strictly forbidden".

Our view of this tranquil ruropastoral idyll was shattered on the Saturday evening in the Crown however. Mr Wheeler had a territorial dispute with a rabid local, something to do with bums and chairs. The whole event was overseen by our resident cage fighter Mr Macmahon and it all ended happily ever after when we decided to go to bed and myself Andy and Mr. W retired to Mrs Kirk's BnB for the night.

I decided my leg didn't deserve any more rock impacting so decided to sit/walk this one out. Team Lyn consisted of Chris W, Andy Mac, Seth, Doug and Dave H. All performed well with Doug's Big EZ exploring interesting juxtapositions at times and Seth producing a rollfest at times!!

Yo!! A great weekend!!

Team Monster Rain- Dave Surman, Andy Wicks, Simon Knox, Seth Townley, Dave Hodgkinson, Chris from Norwich, Doug Johnson, Robbo, Andy MacMahon, Chris Wheeler, Mark Rainsley. Guest appearance from the Mystery Man. Mrs Rainsley went Christmas shopping on Saturday and paddled on Sunday.



Bagpipes and Haggis! Scotland 2008

Extracts from Andy Wick's Blog

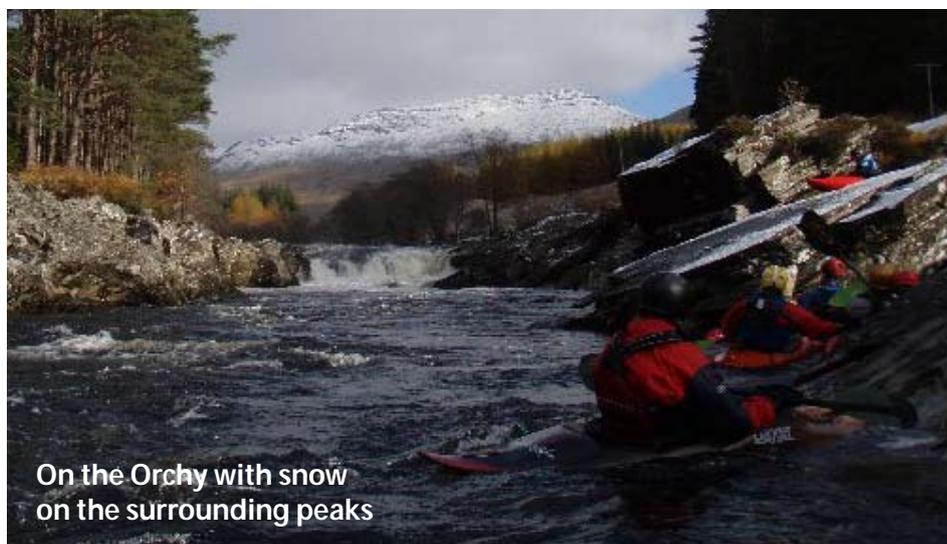
The outlook for the week is considerably different to the low water levels we had last year. The west coast has seen a generous helping of rain over the last week or so which has seen some very high levels. We are hoping that levels drop off slightly to enable us to do some of the more classic runs.

Currently we (Simon, Dave and myself) are travelling up the M6 somewhere around Manchester. It is raining, cold, the traffic is heavy and we have another 316 miles to go. It is going to be a long day.

Scotland day 1 – the Blackwater

An early start was required - 8am was decided on. That would have been a lot more pleasant had some of us not been suffering sneaky hangovers.

The river starts off with Milton Falls - a nice, technical 4-drop rapid - a perfect warm up! The only incident suffered here was a certain Mr Surman having his deck pop in the first drop, requiring a quick empty. We continued downstream until we arrived at the entrance to the gorge. Vicky went first and nailed the line. I went next, and all was going well until I failed to get across to the desired line above the 3rd drop of the rapid. Dropping down where I was, I landed sideways in the stopper at the bottom, surfed along that to escape, before getting spun around and running the final drop backwards. My first ever attempt at a backwards boof failed miserably as I completely subbed before managing a nice backwards pop-out. Everyone else made it down with issue - with the exception of the same Mr Surman, who decided it looked too easy, had to limbo under a tree which separated him from his paddles leaving him to run the remaining 2 drops with paddles. It looked like he was going to



On the Orchy with snow on the surrounding peaks

make it successfully - until capsizing at the bottom of the final drop and swimming. We later discovered that Stuart and Phil had also taken a little swim each around the same place. The river then eased off with just one rapid of note remaining. Both Ian and Ben managed to pin temporarily, but managed to free themselves.

We are now driving back to Roy Bridge, the temperature is a balmy 1.5 degrees and we are admiring all the snow that has fallen on the higher ground around us. Drying our kit is not looking like an easy task - leaving it out on porch will more than likely see up with ice blocks for kit in the morning. Hmmm... maybe not.

Scotland day 3 – Middle Orchy and Arkaig

Waking up we were somewhat surprised to see the ground around our chalets covered with snow. Now, seeing the ground all white was not helping with the motivation for getting all cold and wet on river! Negating this, we headed across to the Orchy. Upon arrival the motivation was no higher and only half the group decided they were man enough to get on the river. Those not paddling were

either going to the tea shop to keep warm or being camera vultures for the day. By the time we were changed and getting on the water, I had already lost feeling in my hands! Despite the cold, Vicky decided that she fancied a swim on the first grade 4 rapid. The remainder of the rapids before the first grade 5, some fun read-and-run grade 4, all passed without incident. This rapid did not look particularly pleasant, with the left line going into a stopper, right line going into rock and the centre line difficult to attain. Only Ken decided to run this rapid, opting for the left line through the stopper. We set up safety cover which was not required as he passed through the stopper without any problems.

Continuing downstream more read-and-run grade 4 followed before we arrived at the second grade 5, which was a drop into a small pool with a nasty stopper across all but a narrow line down the left hand side. Having made it down the drop whilst avoiding the clutches of the stopper the next part of the rapid was quickly upon you - a sweeping drop along a cushion wave into the pool at the bottom of the rapid. I decided to run this first. Clearing the top drop

with a nice boof, I was straight into the sweeping cushion wave and quickly into the pool below with a big grin on my face. Ken, Doug, Phil all made it to the bottom upright. Vicky made it down, although she slipped on the cushion wave and rolled up in the pool. Oli slipped in the pool halfway down and ran the remainder of the rapid upside down - rolling up in the pool at the bottom. Ian got backlooped on the first drop, but managed to roll up before the sweeping cushion wave which up preceded to run backwards and slipped again part way down.

Scotland day 6 – Middle Etive and Allt Mheuran

Friday started off with a plan to head across to the Etive and its tributaries. Unlike previous days, standing around outside the chalets waiting for everyone to get ready did not see a new plan formulated and we headed off to the Etive.

Arriving at Triple Step - the get-on for the Middle Etive - the wind was blowing cold and the river was looking low, though still runnable. This two factors, however, were enough for some of the group to decide not to get on. In the end nine of us braved the conditions and got on the river above the first drop. Everyone made it down successfully with the exception of Dave S, whose deck popped upon landing the third drop. With four of the group heading off downstream after just one run down Triple Step, four of us went back for another run whilst Dave emptied his boat. Following our second descent Oli, Dave H and myself continued downstream leaving Dave S and Doug to continue re-running Triple Step. The Letterbox rapid was quickly reached. Dave and Oli both managed to negotiate successfully, whereas I managed the drop on the correct line but still ended up in the eddy on river right and the bottom. After a few attempts, and with slight worry that the only way out of this eddy was to climb up the rocks behind me, I finally managed to escape its

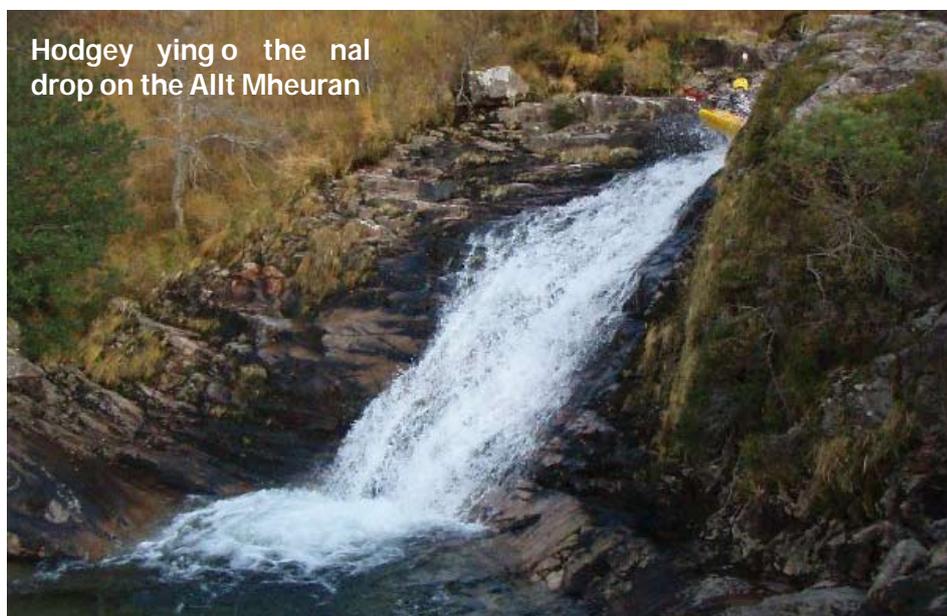
grasp and get back into the flow. We caught up with the first group at the next rapid - Crack of Doom - where they were sorting themselves out following a little swim from Vicky. Leaving them to it, we went passed and headed towards the next rapid, Crack of Dawn, which we paddled down the left-hand line. Approaching Right Angle Falls, Oli was somewhat surprised to discover the corner of his right-hand paddle blade missing! Spotting Fred on the bank indicated that we were in the last eddy above the falls. Dave went first, followed by Oli with myself last. For once I managed to land this 6 metre fall without hurting myself! We waiting in the eddy at the bottom of the falls for the other group to arrive before heading to the get-out as one group.

A small group decided that we hadn't had enough paddling and wanted some more. Dave H, Phil, Doug and myself loaded our boats onto cars and headed down the valley to find the Allt Mheuran tributary, while everyone else headed to the pub to warm up. The Allt Mheuran is only a short run - you could probably get from top to bottom in under a minute - but the walk-in takes considerably longer. To start with, you have to walk down from the road to the Etive river, then cross the river either by paddling or wading across, before walking up to the get-in. All whilst carrying your 20-odd kilo boat on your shoulder.

As if that wasn't tricky enough, the walk up was peat-bog in places, as Dave found out as he sank up to his knees! About 45 minutes after leaving the cars, we reached the section we had come to paddle. It consisted of a double drop totalling approximately 10 metres, followed by some little slides and drops, ending with a lovely slide approximately 20 metres long dropping another 10 metres with a 5 metre drop to finish. We ran the section a couple of times each, taking photos and video, and called it a day before any of us caused ourselves injury. The walk back to the cars



warmed us and, after changing and loading the cars, we headed to the pub for some sustenance. We were greeted to one more surprise though - and that was a stag on the side of the road as we drove up the valley to the pub, who was quite happy to pose for some photos as we drove past. What an end to a fantastic week.



Hodgey ying o the nal
drop on the Allt Mheuran