

## **Volunteer Focus – June 2009**

Across the country, volunteers are making outstanding commitments to Paddlesport. Without the coaches, officials, committee members, administrators and helpers, the sport could not exist as it does today. A special thanks goes to all volunteers and this section provides the opportunity for clubs, centres and committees to recognise their volunteers.

For many lucky clubs, there are those indispensable volunteers who throw their heart and soul into volunteering and you may even wonder how the club would survive without them. Often, you just never know when that person may walk into your club. But when they do, they are definitely worth keeping hold of!

For Southampton Canoe Club, the invaluable Caroline Barnes walked into the club's life following a Return to Sport taster session run by the club and Hampshire County Council. The rest, you might say, is history!

Caroline is now the secretary for the club taking on a mountain of tasks and dealing with all the organisation of the club – from creating registers to writing the minutes of committee meetings. Her commitment doesn't stop there either. Caroline compiles the all important statistics which are often requested from organisations as well as ensures all the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed.

As a competitive paddler herself, Caroline also finds the time to train and race as well as organise coaches for the junior section – herself included! In order to assist in the development of the club, Caroline qualified as BCU Level one coach in 2008 to help coaching in club sessions.

As fellow club member and Senior Development Officer for the South, James Hinvies, says: "Caroline cares passionately about the development of the juniors and their progression through the ranks."

Just to demonstrate her tireless ability to volunteer in the sport, Caroline is seen as one of the valuable volunteers who commit themselves to ensuring the success of one of canoeing's biggest events – the 125 mile Devises to Westminster race. Caroline's commitment to the sport is outstanding and Southampton Canoe Club certainly think she's worth keeping hold of!

Many thanks to all the volunteers in Paddlesport. Let Canoe England know about volunteers in your area for the chance for them to be recognised in Canoe Focus and receive a special gift of thanks. Email [volunteers@bcu.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@bcu.org.uk) or write to the Volunteer Development Officer, Canoe England, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8AP.