



Rockley Reporter

Keeping you in touch

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Welcome to the second, belated, edition of the Rockley Reporter. We were hoping that this newsletter would become a biannual missive, however an extremely busy 2007 season prevented us from collating all the news until now.

Don't forget Rockley Reporter is also your forum for staff news, views and stories so please contact us with your ideas, comments or features for the next edition. You can email us on reunited@rockleywatersports.com. The more we hear from you all the more likely we are to produce the Reporter regularly!



Autumn 2007 Issue

Training Courses for the 2008 Season

Huge Discounts on all courses for new and returning staff.

As a company whose business is people our greatest asset is our staff (that would be you lot!) and a key way to improve our holidays and courses and increase your enjoyment and satisfaction in your work is to provide training. For those of you who worked for Rockley sometime ago this will all be new but current and recent staff will be fully aware of the investments we make in them in terms of 'in-house' and on the job training and induction training.

Year 1 of employment	20% discount	To further encourage current staff and especially returning staff we also offer discounts on the cost of recognised training courses. These discounts are available to current and returning staff for yourself or may be used for direct family members eg parent, brother, sister or child.
Year 2 of employment	35% discount	
Year 3 of employment	50% discount	
Year 4 of employment	75% discount	
Years 5, 6 & 7 of employment	1 FREE course per annum	
Year 8 & Year 8+ of employment	2 FREE courses per annum	

2007 Season Roundup

This season was as busy as anyone of us can remember across all our centres in the UK and France with our school activity trips surpassing our expectations with a 10% increase on 2006.

FRANCE

I am currently writing this from an internet café in Ballina on the east coast of Australia where myself and Emma (Rive Manager 2006, AzuRivage Manager 2007) have skulked away for the winter, doing a three month 'tour de monde' in an effort to avoid the European winter

We can't look back at this summer without mentioning the weather, which was as disappointing in France as it was at home, perhaps all the more so as our customers were trying to escape the British summer only to find it wasn't that much better elsewhere. In spite of this the season was a resounding success and huge thanks must go to the staff this season for still managing to enthuse all our school groups and families despite the (sometimes) dreadful conditions.

Overall we were kept pretty busy with the opening of a new centre at Mayotte,

dealing with rain soaked centres and having a lake closed for a week with only 24 hours notice! The lake closure was something to do with us potentially being in cahoots with Greenpeace and so we might possibly canoe across the lake into the Military Zone and infiltrate their well guarded Base. You couldn't make it up but after a few swift phone calls everyone was re-housed and many of the staff had a chance to experience another centre for the week.

As soon as that was over we had a visitation from the French authorities who said that they now wish to inspect non national sailing schools (presumably they had a dull moment between breakfast and lunch) and informed us that unless we gained the proper licenses we would have to close our doors. When asked what those licenses were, the answer was the authorities weren't too sure themselves! After much toing and froing and politicking we were allowed to continue for the rest of the season and given an action

plan for the next 12 months. Certainly the insight into the governmental system taught me that when dealing with French Authorities logic does not always come into it.

We have had more staff than ever before reapplying for the 2008 season, which is great news for all of us especially myself and Greg 'aka Mini' who for 2008 has accepted a new position working with myself and the centre teams as our 'Operations Support Manager' with responsibility for Health and Safety at all centres.

It certainly is a huge reassurance to have Mini and all the centre teams working alongside me, but he will be going back out to France where he will be our Montage/Demontage king. Hopefully we'll see some of you there.

Rob



RYA 2008 INSTRUCTOR COURSE DATES



RYA Dinghy Instructor
 Feb 18, 25 Mar 17, 24, May 26, June 16, July 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug 4, 11, 18, 25, Sep 1, Oct 20, 27

RYA Senior Instructor
 Feb 18, Mar 9, 24, May 26, Sept 8, Oct 20, 27

RYA Powerboat Instructor
 Feb 13, May 14, July 9

RYA Level 1 Windsurfing Instructor
 Mar 24 July 14,



We also run the following courses subject to demand: RYA Racing Instructor, RYA Advanced Instructor, RYA Intermediate Windsurfing. Please call to check for dates on 01202 677272 or email: info@rockleywatersports.com



RYA INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED

DINGHY, SENIOR & WINDSURF CENTRE MANAGERS
 FRANCE & UK SUMMER 08

We are looking for enthusiastic RYA qualified watersports Instructors for our 7 centres in France and the UK for the coming season.

We offer competitive rates and an excellent employment package including flexible start and finish dates from March to October.

For further information or an application pack, email: personnel@rockleywatersports.com or call the HR team on 01202 677272

RECRUITMENT 2008

Once again the recruitment for the 2008 summer season is in full swing. With a record number of staff returning from the 2007 season we are looking in good shape. However there are still a number of vacancies available and we would love to see those filled by staff who have worked previously at one of the Rockley centres. We are still looking for:

Dinghy Instructors, Windsurf Instructors, Kayak Coaches, Mountain Bike, Trail Leaders Chefs, Assistant Chefs, Kitchen Assistants, Couriers, Drivers, Centre Administrators

The season runs from March – October, however we are really flexible and will take people for just one week during that period if you fancy a working holiday (especially if it's in May or June!!)

Anyway if you would like to join the 2008 team and rekindling some of those Rockley memories just drop me an email at richp@rockleywatersports.com

Rich Percy

Rockley Point

It only seems like yesterday that I was saying how delighted I was with 2006 and now I am saying the same about 2007 – I don't want to be rude to all you old instructors but this year's crop were pretty good and bear very good comparison with the best that we have had. Highlight of my year? - Being introduced as "Mr Watersports" by Keith Chegwin on Good Morning TV! I like to limit my appearances to once a year so look out for next year's starring role, you never know, I might be on Mastermind/Strictly Come Dancing/Newsnight (delete as applicable)! Seriously, a big **Thank You** to all of this year's instructors and Care Assistants. Ken continues to mend all the boats that the instructors break and Ricky is getting the engines ready for next year. Peter also insists on taking bookings when it is cold although he has bought me some nice Henri Lloyd waterproofs and he does join us occasionally when the temperature reaches 25°C. The only worrying part about my job is that now I am running instructor courses for children of people that I worked with in the 70's and 80's and that does make me feel older than my 21 years of age!

Andy aka Straw



Poole Park

This year saw the grand launch of Poole Park, for anyone who was not there we were forced to call it the launch as opposed to opening due to the "purpose built" boat house not being completed. With the lack of a building we followed in the footsteps of our French centres and put up tents, despite all the problems it was a great event enjoyed by all. This season at the Park has been one of learning and overcoming all the problems of a new centre and due to the time and effort all the instructors and assistants put in, it was made a very enjoyable and successful summer.

I would like to say a big **thanks** to all the staff who have worked at the park, its success is mainly due to the friendly and approachable staff so once again thank you and I look forward to seeing you all for an even better season in 2008.

James aka JK



Rockley TV

We are very lucky (privileged) to work in the industry we do and a lot of other people think so too. During 2007 we again featured on the telly – as the finale to Keith Chegwin's GMTV Summer Road show at Rockley Point.

New Centres

Rockley continues to expand and during 2007, we opened 2 new centres – 1 in France and 1 here in the UK. This marks our biggest expansion in a single season and was a considerable investment in money, time and resources, hence the lateness of this newsletter!

Mayotte is based on Lac Cazeau, close to Biscarrosse and on the same lake as La Rive. The campsite is a large 4 star site and is owned and operated by Yelloh Villages, a French holiday company with more than 30 sites. Mayotte offered school activity trips as well as family holidays and with its great blend of superb facilities, idyllic location and relaxed atmosphere was a hit with our customers and staff alike.

Poole Park is based right in the centre of Poole itself and Rockley @ Poole Park is based on the UK's largest (we are reliably informed) inland saltwater lake. At Poole Park we offer a different range of watersports experiences compared to our other centres. These mainly included short taster sessions and kit hire to the local community and tourists as well as short sessions for school groups which we can offer at very competitive rates meaning that we have greatly expanded the accessibility of watersports to youngsters who might not otherwise be able to afford this type of outdoor experience. We also moved our windsurfing from Rockley to Poole Park and offered children's watersports activity camps during the school holidays which were very popular. Much to our surprise the swan pedaloos we acquired in the early summer have been a great hit!



Poole Park Opening 22nd June 2007

Rockley Rules the Waves

For the 3rd year in a row we entered the Industry Sailing Regatta at Port Solent hosted by Sunsail and this year we entered 3 crews skippered by Peter Gordon, Rob Clark and Richard Percy. All acquitted themselves well on the day (and the night before!). It was Rob who came away with silverware in the shape of a hard fought 3rd place, Peter was sailing close and although not troubling the medals (for a change) his crew did win the award for the top boat without a top 5 position (a prize is a prize however fabricated the category might be!) and Richard brought up the Rockley vanguard after starting very promisingly with a 6th place in the first race but then finding the going tough with a very light weight crew.

- The teams were:
- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| RW 1 aka "Over 40s" | RW 2 aka "Over Seas" | RW 3 aka "Over Here" |
| Peter Gordon (Skipper) | Rob Clark (Skipper) | Richard Percy (Skipper) |
| Lis Gordon | Greg Haylock | Cassy Eliseou |
| Peter Broadhead | Emma Hutchison | Pip Woods |
| Tim Bryant | Brian Campbell | Richard Howard |
| Andy Smith | Matthew Rayers | Keiron Rankin |
| Roger Turner | Jonny Pearce | Matthew Holmes |
| Nick Gordon | Matthew Ford | |



Meet the Teams!



We are delighted to announce that Rob Clark (1999 – present) our Overseas Manager, has agreed to step up and become a Director of Rockley Watersports. Rob has been appointed as overseas director of Rockley Watersports, he has the experience and track record to build on the proven success of Rockley. In fact, he was so overjoyed he has had to take a little time off to recover - 3 months in fact! He and Emma are on sabbatical surfing their way around the world! Check out their progress on <http://www.theclutchworldtour.blogspot.com>

Many of you will remember Ken Haslam our bosun at

STAFF NEWS - WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are sure you are as interested as we are to hear everyone's news (should that read gossip?!) – so please get in touch and let us know what you are up to! Don't forget to register online at www.rockleywatersports.com/reunited so that we have your current contact details and you can always send us news and (suitable!) pictures at reunited@rockleywatersports.com

Rockley Point and we are delighted to report that 2007 sees Ken's 25th year at Rockley and he's still going strong!

Peter became Chairman of Wessex BMF in October and is looking forward to having to wear a suit occasionally (not!).

It is, however, with great sadness that we announce the death of an ex-member of staff, Tony Perkins (1976-1981). Tony finally lost his battle with cancer at the beginning of the year and many ex-members of Rockley attended his funeral here in Poole. The church was standing room only, which is a testament to the huge number of friends and family who wanted to celebrate Tony's life. Our best wishes are with Karina, Tony's wife and his family.

Caption Competition AND THE WINNER IS...

.....In our last newsletter we offered a competition to win some Animal vouchers for the wittiest caption to our photo of Greg aka Mini Haylock, La Reserve Centre Manager. Apart from the deliberate mistake of describing him as wakeboarding when to the officianos in the office he is quite clearly kitesurfing we were inundated with entries (one!!!) so the winner is Richard Bower (by default!)

Ruby: "Has Lucky broken down again... you've been at SuperU for ages?"

Or

Mini finds a new way to provide safety cover and cut fuel costs, whilst still being in contact with the office!

Marriages Congratulations

Tim Fisher (2004-2005) married Emma Casbon in February 2007
James Cowan aka Dids (1994-2006) married Victoria in May 2007.

ACCOLADES FOR ROCKLEY

Some of you may be aware that just occasionally Rockley gamers recognition for all the fantastic work that the team do. In 2004, Peter Gordon was honoured by Poole Tourism as its Personality of the Year at their annual Tourism Awards and again in 2007 Rockley was awarded a special sponsors award for our investment in Poole Park. During 2007 Rockley became a Beacon Company this is an award given to those companies who can demonstrate outstanding achievement across a range of criteria.

We are signatories of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto and a RYA OnBoard Centre with the region's OnBoard Development Officer based at Rockley. We are also members of BAHA (British Activity Holiday Association), IOL (Institute of Outdoor Learning) and RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents).

Peter & Lis endpiece



A busy year for Rockley and hopefully we get across how important our staff are in making everything that we do such a success. We are still experiencing "organic growth" (that means slow) but hopefully that enables us to maintain that warm, fuzzy Rockley feeling that has seen us through 31 years now.

Our 2007 highlights are many, opening Poole Park, a new centre in France as well as being guests of Henri Lloyd at the America's Cup in Valencia, we would recommend a trip to watch the action to anybody! Another highlight, at the opposite end of the sailing spectrum, was our sponsorship of Parkstone Yacht Club's Youth Week where there were more than 200 kids sailing in 8 fleets and having a whale of a time and where the non sailing activities were taken as seriously as the racing itself.

New for 2007 were our Rockley Trucks

As always we will be at the London Boat Show at Excel from January 11th to 20th on stand number N040M and we look forward to renewing acquaintances there, it's a long week so please come and say hello!

Happy Christmas to you all and we hope you all enjoy a peaceful New Year.

Peter and Lis