

# *The Sharks*



**Press Release:** For Immediate Use

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> September

## **Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club lift Shark League Trophy**

Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club has won the inaugural Shark Marafun Summer League in a very tight contest, which saw them hold off Herts Young Mariners by only two points.

The races took place on the Grand Union Canal at Harefield, right on the edge of West London and have attracted over 50 paddlers to the Tuesday evening events. There are three courses 1.5 miles, with no portages for beginners; 3.5 miles, two portages for intermediate and 6.4 miles with five portages for the more experienced and to add a little bit of interest to the longer races they start and finish above the mill stream, which can on occasions prove to be a bit tricky! Entries cost just £1 per person per event!

Paddlers from the age of nine-year-old James Bell from Hillingdon Junior Canoe Club, to paddlers in their 60s were among the 20 medal winners, competitors included DW veterans and aspirants, beginners and seasoned paddlers. The races are designed to give everybody a good race and a good workout whatever standard, excellence is rewarded as well as newcomers encouraged.

A late surge by Nomad Kayak Club, who recruited a number of new paddlers to the cause enabled them to overtake Hillingdon Junior Canoe Club to take third place. The Sharks were fifth, P. L. Argantan sixth and Leaside Canoe Club 7<sup>th</sup>.

Series organiser Neal Underwood was very pleased with the event commenting "To get over 50 paddlers in the first season is a incredible, the clubs which have taken part have been fantastic, not just entering into the spirit of the competition, but also pledging to go for broke and get more paddlers involved to increase their chances of winning the next series. The series was set up to get people paddling and that is exactly what it has done!"

The next Shark series will be the Winter series, which will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from October through to March 2011, starting at 10:30am, timed to finish just in time to enjoy the roaring fire and good food at the Coy Carp, who kindly lend their car park to canoeists throughout the year.

For more information please visit: [www.thesharks.org.uk](http://www.thesharks.org.uk) or call Neal on 07951 770241.

Ends

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Picture attached is of:

James Prowse, Mathew Prowse and Alan Farrance, receiving the shield for Hemel Hempstead Canoe Club, from Councillor Henry Higgins, Cabinet member for Sport, Leisure and Culture at the London Borough of Hillingdon. Event organiser Neal Underwood is in the background. The prize giving event was hosted by the Coy Carp. Photograph by Sue Prowse.