

Totnes Canoe Club



Club Newsletter - Sept 09

Club Nights

All finished for the summer - congratulations to all who achieved their one star or two awards.

Adrian reports on the Junior Sessions

Another successful season over.....

As the Paddle Power sessions continued to grow, the courses were closed to new enquiries quite early on due to demand.

After a cautious session or two the nerves soon disappeared and the youngsters started to hone their skills they had learnt - this made easier from paddling our junior kayaks which we were able to purchase last season with a lottery grant. With confidence brimming they are ready for new challenges with many strong contenders for this years Paddle Power cup.

But don't forget the parents who finished the season with the safety skills and confidence to paddle as a family.

Trywryn



Off they sallied - a ten cumec release from the dam at the head of the valley, a few bruises, dents and scratches (and some of the boats were dented & scratched too...) and a good time was had by all. The Trywryn is a very different beast from the Dartmoor rivers and those who paddled it for the first time did extraordinarily well (as did most of those who'd paddled it before!). Most stayed on the upper and more challenging sections, a small party went down the river to Bala (flat water? A gentle bibble? Phooey!).



The camping barn was relatively luxurious, the food good - particularly the breakfasts - which helped fuel the paddling through the day. Thanks to Jeremy for making the arrangements, and thanks to all 20 odd who came for making it such a hugely enjoyable trip. Roll on the Dart white water....you've seen the emails, join the fun!



Christmas Party

You will have seen the emails - Friday 4 December at the Riverford Field Kitchen. Steph is co-ordinating this so please do come along and let her know as soon as possible how many will be in your party. This is a great fun night out and of course the Club awards are presented on the night - Paddler of the Year, Junior Paddler of the Year and Coach Personality of the Year. The Coach award is voted for by members at the dinner. We will again have a slideshow in the background so you can all play spot the paddler, this year we will have videos (play the 'guess the person caught in the big stopper at the bottom of the ski jump' game).

Peer Trips

These are usually arranged by email - just a group of friends paddling together. Of course coaches and experienced paddlers will help, encourage, and watch out for those with less experience so don't feel intimidated - sign up now! Everyone is welcome. Check with your coach or one of the peer group co-ordinators for more information.

To join a peer group contact the following:

General Touring & White Water:

Chas - chasandjaneb@tiscali.co.uk

Sea: Jeremy - info@jeremyvanr.com

Surf: Jon - jon.purdye@googlemail.com

Flat water: Roger tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk

Pool Session

Next is this coming (TOMORROW!!) Sat, 26 Sept. Sessions are 5.00-6.00 for beginners, 6.00-7.00 improvers at the Totnes Pavilions Pool, subject to change depending on numbers attending on the night. Practice those support strokes & rolling ready for the whitewater.

You can't win them all

Beach day...15 August...where were you?

The drizzle wasn't *that* bad...the happy few who did turn up buddied up with some of the Paddle Pirates (and their super-duper gas barbie) and a good time was had by all. And three enjoyed it so much they paddled to to Mothercombe and spent the night camping on the beach.

I left my boat on the car, had a burger and went home...but was feeling a bit peaky anyway...

A message from down under

Our special correspondent Mark Chapman sent the following - I repeat it here in full as I don't see why I should be the only one green with envy "as I couldn't make the last trip in August, being away on business - I still managed to get in some kayaking - out in Sydney (or in the creeks and inlets north of the city).

We took out two sea kayaks for an afternoons explore and managed about 12.5 kms in under 3 hours (my associate was more than a little 'aggressive' in the pace he set!).

I attach a photo from the trip - note it was 26 - 29'C in the middle of their 'winter'.



Thanks Mark!

Plastic surf competition

Our very own Jon Purdye got into the quarter finals of this competition in North Cornwall earlier in the summer - quite an achievement as the rest of the quarter finalists compete at world level.

Meanwhile, having not got as far in the paddling, Andy Ryder instead won a top of the range carbon composite surf boat in the raffle. Nice.





Club Trip Sun 13 September

34 intrepid paddlers, expanded to 37 with the arrival of our sea faring folk. The numbers did expand again when a Seal decided to join us and play, but the Seal and seafarers had places to be and had to go. The weather was perfect, I for one could have stayed much longer on the grassy bank lazing in the sun but we too had deadlines to meet.

Stoke Gabriel saw ice-creams and coffee, and the ten minute ("maximum") stop became half an hour. The party split into three smaller groups and the paddlers at the front arrived some considerable time before those at the back. No-one was left stranded on the beach, and all the boats got lifts back to Totnes, so thanks to all you drivers, your help was invaluable.

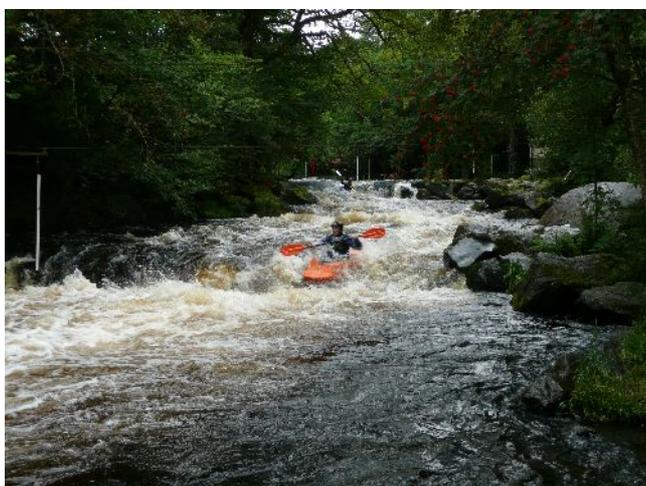
Further information

Contact any coach or committee member - see website for details www.totnescanoecub.org.uk or email tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk

Remember, all your coaches and committee members are volunteers and do it for the fun of it - treat them nicely...



More from the Tryweryn...



Contributions and photos welcome - especially any pictures for the Christmas party, thanks