

# Totnes Canoe Club



## Club Newsletter – January 2010

Here we are at the end of the first month of the year. Although some aspects of the Club are relatively dormant until the start of the season in April the peer groups have been busy. We look forward to seeing old faces and meeting new ones in April, but in the meantime do consider joining one of the peer groups.

### Pool Session

This coming Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan at Totnes Pavillion Pool. 5.00-6.00 for beginners, 6.00-7.00 for improvers. Come and keep those skills going or learn some new ones, not just rolling.

### AGM

This is the third advance warning! The AGM is set for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Dartmouth Inn, Totnes, starting at 7.00pm. All members are welcome – not just the committee. We encourage parents, paddlers, friends – anyone who wants to have a say in how the club should operate – to come along.

See last month's newsletter for more details as we are looking for a Child Protection Officer, someone to help out with talking to new members and taking money on pool sessions and some Monday or Tuesday nights, as well as a Social Secretary to organise the Christmas meal and hopefully additional social events throughout the year.

Finally, if anyone wants to put themselves forward for any of the other committee positions all members are free to do so and if necessary there will be a vote at the AGM to decide who is appointed.

### Library

Yvette now has all the library items previously stored at Totnes Kayaks. Some items are still on loan and so please check if you have anything that belongs to the Club library and return it to Yvette. The plan is to bring the library to the Club sessions from April onwards – our very own mobile library. The library contains books and DVDs covering everything from techniques through to adventures and inspirational trips.

### When there's no Kayaking go Snow Kayaking

When the river is empty due to all the water being frozen and sitting on the land what should you do? One option (not necessarily recommended) is to go kayak sledging as Jack demonstrates here:



*Two can travel faster than one*



*Is he safe out alone?*



*Apparently not...*

## Peer Trips

The whitewater group have been out paddling various parts of the Dart, as well as trips on the Teign and elsewhere.

The sea group has also been active but due to the weather has mainly been paddling in Estuaries. See trip report below.

The flat water group paddled the Tamar but is otherwise waiting for warmer weather.

And I also believe there has been some surf paddling as the waves can be fantastic and clean at this time of year, but also bloomin' cold!

To join a peer group contact the following:

General Touring & White Water:

Chas – [chasandjaneb@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chasandjaneb@tiscali.co.uk)

Sea: Jeremy – [info@jeremyvanr.com](mailto:info@jeremyvanr.com)

Surf: Jon – [jon.purdye@googlemail.com](mailto:jon.purdye@googlemail.com)

Flat water: Roger [tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk)

## A Winters Tale

A group of us set out last weekend putting in on a creek leading into the Yealm, ending up at Newton Ferrers. Although it was high tide we still had to walk a few hundred metres to get into water deep enough to float and the mist was hanging low.



As we paddled the mist gradually lifted and the sun burnt through which made for a magical experience. The water was totally still and for the first hour no one else was in sight.

With the arrival of the sun came a few other people, just one trio of kayakers one of whom was trailing a fishing line and a dog walker or two. There were a tiny number of fisherfolk around but we kept clear of their lines and everyone seemed happy. We saw plenty of birdlife and a few fish jumping. The estuary widened and the tide was

ebbing fast so we had to be aware of the potential mudflats, but we had plenty of time to stop a couple of times for warm drinks and snacks and to soak up the sun.



We paddled down as far as the sea but rather than embark on a further few hours paddle along coast we turned around and headed back to the jetty at Newton Ferrers.

A beautiful day back on the water with great scenery and good company – and it was great to burn off some of those extra Christmas pounds.

Thanks to Paul Rutherford for the pictures and for suggesting the location.



## Further information

Contact any coach or committee member – see website for details [www.totnescanoecclub.org.uk](http://www.totnescanoecclub.org.uk) or email [tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk)