

Totnes Canoe Club



Club Newsletter – February 2010

The traditional white water season is drawing to a close and we are starting to plan for the new spring and summer sessions. See the summary of the AGM below and let one of the committee know if you have any suggestions or comments about the Club. Its been great to see the touring boats getting a few outings over the winter and we look forward to more flat water trips as well as the usual whitewater, surf and sea. Hopefully something for everyone!

Pool Session

This coming Saturday 27 Feb 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.

3 Star Assessment

Please let Yvette know if you wish to be assessed for 3 star as assessments have to be pre-booked by the Club with the BCU. This is an area the committee realise needs addressing.

TCC Website

We have been having problems with the old website appearing in Google searches (see AGM notes below as to why) but after two years work Paul has at last got Virgin to remove it! We still need a favour from all members to get the newer website to appear higher up in the searches. Please search in Google for "Totnes Canoe Club Org" and then click on the link to open the site – as many times as you can. This should raise the profile of the newer website. The word "Org" at the end is important to show the correct site.

Marine Conservation Zones

As per the recent email, the Government is currently carrying out a major project to assess the use of coastal waters around the country. The aim is to identify areas to be classified as Marine Conservation Zones taking into account the needs of recreational and business users. Please see www.finding-sanctuary.org for more details. Representatives from the Club met with the Boating & Watersports Liaison Officer, Beth

Henshall, and mapped the areas where the club paddles. Please do visit the website yourselves and read about the project, and then link through to the interactive maps to mark where you use the sea for whatever leisure activities.

Peer Trips

To join a peer group contact the following:

General Touring & White Water:

Chas – chas@billing123.plus.com

Surf: Jon – jon.purdye@googlemail.com

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

The sea group is testing the use of a Yahoo Group. The main benefit of this is that communications are forwarded to all group members, email addresses remain private, and each member can change their email address whenever they like without everyone else having to note it. To join this Group simply send an email to totnescc-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk See <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/totnescc/> for further details.

If this test is successful we may look at extending this form of communication more widely.

Its all Downhill

Last Sunday when others were paddling the Loop section, a group of eleven of us paddled from Totnes to Dartmouth in sea and touring boats. This was a one way trip with the dropping tide taking about three hours. There was ice on the ground as we sorted the boats, then it rained while we were



Launching below Totnes Weir

shuttling the cars down to Dartmouth. The paddle itself however was gorgeous – a little sunshine but dry if overcast most of the way.

One, who shall remain nameless (...oh all right, me) tried seal launching which given the length of a sea kayak is unwise. Pivoting with the bow under the water and the stern well and truly wedged on the shore gave a few moments of panic but much to Paul (and his camera's) disappointment somehow I managed to keep the boat upright.



Launching – how not to do it

We stopped for hot drinks and snacks at Sharpham Point at which point a seal appeared and gave us a few curious stares.



Lunching at Sharpham Point

Thanks to Yvette for arranging and to Paul Rutherford for the pictures. Another superb day!



A good nosey at Agatha's tidal bathhouse (Greenway)

AGM

This is a summary of the key points discussed. There were 17 attendees – of whom only four were not committee members. Hopefully this reflects satisfaction amongst the members as to how the Club is operating – if not do please let us know!

Chairman's Report (Rob)

The Club has continued it's steady growth over last few years and is financially sound with a healthy balance at the end of the year. Congratulations to Jerome on the new UKCC Level 2 and Jeremy on the new 5 Star.

Club members can now use a touring kayak, a sea kayak, a surf kayak or a canoe which gives a far wider scope of capability.

The Membership numbers continue to grow and many of the members are very active. Under the Totnes Canoe Club umbrella the use of peer groups and e-mail lists for white water, sea and surf appear to be working – if not please tell us or if there are any specific trips you would like to go on or ideas for other peer groups such as open boating.

Totnes weir – this is being sold to new owners, who have contacted us, and there will soon be a planning application for a hydropower scheme on the weir. The new owners are happy for recreation users to paddle over the weir.

River Bank – we have been talking with Dartington estates as the bank is continuing to erode even though we use a canvas to protect it. Please will everyone note not to seal launch off the bank without the canvas as this accelerates the erosion.

KEVICC school development – we are in discussion about the future of the Elmhurst Site and how it would affect the Club, ideally with a new boat store or even a clubhouse. As this may require funding we have been saving money over the last few years to ensure we are included in any development.

Rivers Access & Dartmoor NPA – the BCU has now said there are no access agreements and people are free to paddle providing they cause no environmental damage. Landowners may not agree. The Dartmoor NPA want to improve the situation for river paddlers.

Treasurer (Sarah)

Full accounts were reviewed at the meeting. Although bank interest is now minimal, there is a healthy balance at year end – saving for future Clubhouse. We should be looking to raise more from hiring Club kit.

Chief Instructors

Adrian: Monday Paddlepower sessions going well and popular. Has reached capacity given the number of coaches – more needed. Good to see parents achieving 1* and 2* awards on the Mondays. Kids boats proving a valuable resource

Yvette: first two 6 week blocks very popular, but dropped off dramatically for the third set – school holidays?

Officers

All were re-elected unopposed.

A new junior section of the committee is to be formed when Club sessions begin.

Fees

Unchanged from 2009/10 to reflect low inflation, economic challenges and healthy state of Club finances

Trips

Plan similar number to last year. Use the open canoes for more trips. Question usage of trailer as few coaches have towbars. More short notice trips as peer trips, perhaps to whole membership. Wye trip in open boats? Jeremy has booked bunkhouse for Tryweryn Sept – non paddlers will be actively encouraged to come. Surf weekend to be repeated. Alps & overseas trips will be up to individuals to arrange

General

Membership Assistant

Requesting volunteer helper for some Mon/Tues nights and pool sessions to assist Sarah

Equipment

Request return of all borrowed kit by Mid March. May need new spraydecks. Chase return of library items to Yvette. Check all airbags

Website

Website still a problem as old version (from redundant dial-up account) still appearing in search engines and can't be deleted. Still pursuing providers for solution.

If anyone would like to see the full minutes please email tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk.

Borrowed Kit

Could anyone who has any club kit please let Chas know (chas@billing123.plus.com) as we will doing a stock check mid March in preparation for the new season.

Dart Loop

Sunday 7 Feb and a good turnout for what turned out to be a reasonable level. An enjoyable pootle over Top Wave, Washing Machine, Lover's Leap, Triple Falls, Spin Drier, Holne Weir and finally the Anvil before egressing at the Country Park. The Dart Shuttle Bus decided to take its (2 hour?) lunchbreak at exactly the time we needed to use it so reinforcements were called in from Ashburton to save us shivering for too long in the cold.



Donald on Holne Weir



Paul on Top Wave



Jerome & Alastair on Top Wave

Pix courtesy Rob Dack (who's camera is showing the wrong date!)

Further information

www.totnescanooclub.org.uk

or email tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk