

Totnes Canoe Club



Newsletter May 2011

The new season has started and the Club is delighted to welcome so many new members and old friends. The weather has been kind for the evening sessions, although the dry spring meant there was very little whitewater paddling to be had. This is your Club so please do get involved, enjoy the monthly trips, come to the pool sessions, and let us have your feedback so we know what you want.

Calendar

There is a typo on the date of the Avon trip – it should of course read Sunday 24th June.

The first trip of the season is this coming Sunday – see earlier email on the subject – and is suitable for most members.

Do join the trips as they allow you to paddle with like minded folk and qualified coaches in some of the most beautiful estuaries in the country. And best of all they are free to members of the Club.

Next Set of Sessions

Sarah will be at KEVICC on Tuesday 10th May at 6pm (session 5 of current course) to take enrolments and payment for the next six week course which starts May 24th. Please note, places will only be reserved on receipt of payment. The Club is expecting to cap the paddler numbers soon due to high demand and the finite number of Club boats available – so get in quick!

New members - 1* etc

What are these BCU Star Tests? For anyone interested in seeing more look at the Canoe England Website:

<http://www.canoe-england.org.uk/tests-i-awards/personal-performance-awards/paddlesport-start-i-1-to-3-star/>

The Club tends to teach to a slightly higher level than the tests require in order to help members get the most out of their paddling, especially for the peer trips.

The BCU requires paddlers to experience both kayak and open canoe at 2* level. At 3* the awards become discipline specific (for example Open Boat, Whitewater Kayak, Sea Kayak or Slalom).

Yahoo Group

Go to <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/totnescc/> and follow the joining instructions.

This is where we post suggestions and plans for Peer Trips - whether they are flat water, white water, surfing or sea expeditions. These are not formal Club Trips - they are just a group of like minded people paddling together as friends – the Club simply facilitates

communication using the Yahoo site. Each person is responsible for their own safety, but can borrow Club kit free of charge if a member of the Club.

Salcombe Estuary Peer Paddle

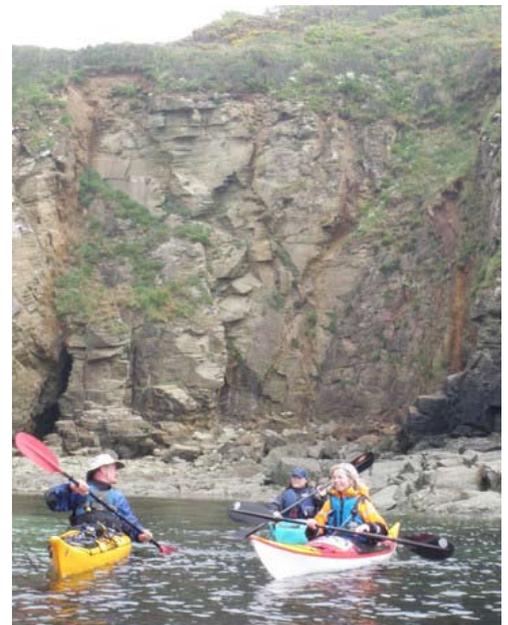
Last Saturday saw an intrepid group head out into a windy Salcombe estuary. Having tested the open sea towards Prawle we wisely thought better of it, so headed up the estuary towards South Pool.

A lovely contrast as the pictures show - despite the wind it was sunny & bright. We passed racing dingies at full throttle, many of whom were unable to make the sharp turns upright. Then into the less habited parts where the trees and wildlife took centre stage.

Keep an eye on the Yahoo Group for upcoming trips.



*Heading back into estuary – rapid Yacht movements ahead
Picture courtesy Mark Dixon*



*Recovering from the exertions out at sea
Picture courtesy Paul Rutherford*

Pool Session

The next session is on Saturday 28th May, 5.00 to 6.00 for beginners; 6.00 to 7.00 for improvers. A great place to practice support strokes, rescues, or even learn to roll in the warmth.

Boats are provided – please do not bring your own without the prior agreement of the Committee.

Kayak Safety Cover

A local events company is putting on a series of events this summer and are looking for kayak safety cover. If anyone is interested please contact Louise Crathorne directly at Endurancelife. These are in support of the Marine Conservation Society and the National Seal Sanctuary (Gweek, Cornwall). These are not Totnes Canoe Club events.

There are three swims planned (see below) and they are looking for paddlers with CST and FS&R certificates.

Stage 1 Erme (Fleet Estuary), 8th May, 3 miles (start c. 09:20) last swimmer out 12:20

Stage 2 Helford (Gweek), 11th June, 4 miles (start c. 12:45) last swimmer out 15:30

Stage 3 Dart (Longmarsh), 17th July, 5 miles (start c. 09:00) last swimmer out 14:00

Times given above are estimates and subject to slight revision post a run through of each of the events. More information can be found here:

www.endurancelife.com/event.asp?series=48

t: 01548 853524 m: 07930 314224

e: louise@endurancelife.com

Olympics

The new whitewater course at Lea Valley has now officially opened and is open to paddlers, as well as offering whitewater rafting – all at a price! This is the only Olympic venue to be available to the public in advance of the Olympics themselves next year.

See www.gowhitewater.co.uk/whitewaterrafting/

Committee and Coaches

Remember that all your coaches are unpaid volunteers, so do treat them gently. All coaches are de facto members of the committee, but we also welcome others – whether paddlers or not – onto the committee.

Contacts

Secretary: Roger Lane

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Chairman: Rob Dack

robdack@blueyonder.co.uk

Membership: Sarah Rea

adrianandsarah@aol.co.uk

Kit: Chas Billing

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Social Paddle

The new Monday night social paddle has been a great success, in part due to the glorious weather through much of April. The Club has been looking for ways to provide activities for experienced paddlers who don't want to enrol on specific courses. Thanks to Diana for getting this off the ground.



A typical Monday social paddle group



Paddling the fields on the flood tide



Pictures courtesy Paul Rutherford & Julie Perrin



Nice & calm

*Picture Left courtesy Mark Dixon
(all other pics this page courtesy
Paul Rutherford)*



Landing for lunch at the aptly named Sunny Cove



Salcombe looking lovely



Heading back to North Sands – past Salcombe Castle



The Home Strait