

Totnes Canoe Club



Newsletter January 2013

Welcome to a new year of paddling – its now the end of January and the weekly training sessions will soon be upon us. In the meantime there is plenty to do on the water, whether whitewater, sea paddling, surfing or touring. The best place to keep in touch is to join the Yahoo Group and watch the messages.

Remember to spread the word to your friends and family about the new season, especially the free taster session on Saturday 23rd March. Let's make this a year to remember.

Christmas Meal

The Riverford Field Kitchen again did us proud and a great evening was had by all. We had a guest of honour, David Scrace, who was one of the original founders of the Club back in the 1960's. He told of the founding of the Club as part of the Totnes Boating Association, then having to break away as the canoes they were paddling kept colliding with the bigger boats of the association.

The hall was decorated with photo's of various paddling exploits from the year, as well as a projected video of some of our favourite paddling spots.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the annual awards:

The Paddler awards are presented to members who have progressed their paddling through the year and who have also made an outstanding contribution to the Club for the benefit of all the members.



Paddler of the Year 2012

Mark Dixon (Commended: Trevor Nosworthy)



Paddlepower Paddler of the Year 2012

Jamie Stacey (Commended: Diori Laidlaw, Ella Miles)



Club Personality of the Year 2012

Julie Perren

As voted on the night. This award is aimed at the coaches & helpers, all of whom give their time and expertise free of charge to keep you safe and happy on the water! It is great to see Julie's hard work on co-ordinating the membership recognised – with 200 members that's a lot of work!



Junior Paddler of the Year 2012

Sam Dixon (Commended: Rowan James; Anusha Brown)



Raft Race

Along with Totnes Sub Aqua Club, the Club provided safety cover for the raft race, and also cleared up any debris left behind by disintegrating rafts. As well as being good fun and a nice paddle down the Dart, the Rotary Club organisers presented a cheque for £150 to help the Club funds. This is first time the race has run for 10 years and so was something of a test. It was very successful so should now be a regular annual fixture, providing great fun for the entrants, raising money for good causes (around £5000 I believe), and introducing new people to the joys of floating down rivers.

Above The winning team, escorted by a Heron. So fast there was no way the kayak escort could keep up
below left Some boys in blue; *below right* Club member Andrew Hayley and team *Raft pictures courtesy Mik Wells*



Pool Session

The next session is on Saturday 23rd February: 5.00 until 6.00 for beginners, 6.00 to 7.00 for improvers. Its not just about rolling, its a great place to push your limits with the bracing strokes and eskimo rescues that you'll need on the river

Taster Day 2013

If you've been evangelising to your friends about how brilliant kayaking and canoeing are, then they can find out for themselves in a couple of months. The pre-season taster session is on Saturday 23rd March at the boat shed & usual get-in.

The session will run from 10.30 until 1.00, the amount of time spent actually paddling dependent on numbers on the day. Start spreading the word and also don't forget to contact enrolments@totnescanoecub.org.uk to get your own name down for any courses you want to do this year.

New Boats

We now have a number of new boats are in the shed, these are available to Club members for peer trips. They will also enable us to offer a broader range of training this spring & summer.

Let one of the coaches know if you fancy trying out sea kayaking (skills training on the river to begin with), playboating, or even want to try out a sit-on-top. And surfing too – the Club has two specialised surf boats. All this in addition to the usual kayak and open canoe training.

Whitewater

There have been numerous Peer Trips over the past few months. Groups have paddled many local rivers in various levels of water. From spate runs on the Upper Dart and the Erme for the brave/mad/highly skilled*, through to introductory sessions on the lower sections of the Dart for

the brave/mad/slightly skilled*.
[*delete as appropriate - or is it all three?].

As an example of the range available to members, one Sunday saw three large groups out with one paddling the Dart Loop, one on the Teign and another on the Lower-lower Dart, nearly 50 paddling in total.

There are groups paddling every weekend, and occasional trips on weekdays. If you fancy doing something please post onto the Yahoo Group – don't just wait to be asked!



Junior Night Paddle

Way back in the Autumn, around Halloween, there was a night paddle – eventually, after problems with too much rain (well fancy that!). We have an insider's report from our correspondant-from-the-Dark-Side, Julie Perren:

Children of all ages gathered on the bank for the very dark junior night paddle up the river to a secret location (mainly secret because we couldn't see it)

We all got out, a small fire was lit, snacks were eaten and marshmallows were crucified. Jeremy showed the juniors his fire lighting techniques, many glow sticks were thrown and, as is tradition, one was stuck in a tree but then bravely rescued.

We packed up leaving no trace but moved pretty fast after the sighting of a very scary vision. It was hard to tell in the dim light if it was ghost, monster or coach! See photo below left. After drifting and paddling back

Caption Competition: We think it may be Jeremy in the mask – send us your caption suggestions to share!



AGM

The Club AGM is taking place on Friday 15th February at the Dartmouth Inn on the Plains in Totnes at 7.00. Please do come and join us – its your chance to say how the Club should run and where we should focus our attentions.

This is an exciting time for the Club with membership over 200 and with substantial developments on the weir, a new launching platform, and various plans for the storage shed as part of the KEVICC redevelopment all bubbling under.

in silence for a while to take in the atmosphere we journeyed on and arrived back at the boatshed with the same 29 paddlers that we left with.....or did we have one more?

Pictures by Andy Ryder



Fun Day

Back in the summer at the end of the weekly sessions the Club held a Fun Day and a great deal of fun was indeed had.



Committee

The Club's officers for 2013 will be elected at the AGM. If you fancy helping out in some capacity or other please do get in touch with one of the coaches. You don't need to be a coach, or even a paddler, to help out. All hands welcome, especially as a couple of the existing officers will be standing down after the AGM.

The official positions, with current incumbents are:

Chairman – Rob Dack

Treasurer – Bill Hargreaves

Secretary – Roger Lane

Membership Secretary – Julie Perren

Course enrolments – Paul Rutherford

Equipment Officer – Chas Billing

Safety Officer – Paul Lovell

Welfare Officer – Paul Tweed

Webmaster – Mik Wells

End of Winter Season Paddling and Party

This is not being arranged by the Club but should be a great day and evening of paddling related fun and partying. Check out the webpage if you want to know more:

www.riverdart.co.uk/News/the-big-winter-finale.html



More raft race pictures from Mik

