



Newsletter February 2013

The Club is busy preparing for the new season and the Taster Session is less than a month away. Armed with a new logo and changes to the committee we look forward to our most successful season yet. It would be great to see all the 2012 paddlers join for 2013!

We do however have a serious problem to overcome before the new season can get underway – we need a volunteer to take on the role of Secretary. This can be anyone in the Club, they don't have to be a coach or even a paddler! More details below.

AGM 2013

The AGM is an important occasion, and legally has to take place each year to ensure the Club is operating within its constitution, and to ensure that you – the members – are being correctly provided for, and the Club finances are being well managed.

Full minutes are available on request, but the main points from the meeting are summarised below. Please look at the details of the Secretary position and give it serious consideration – it bears repeating: the Club cannot operate without someone in this position.

Reports

Rob Dack, Retiring Chairman, reported on the past year's activities which included the continued increase in membership to around 200 members. He also mentioned progress on getting a landing stage as part of the weir, ongoing discussions with KEVICC about the boat shed and possible future developments at the school, and the work the committee has done towards Clubmark status.

Bill Hargreaves, Treasurer, presented the years accounts and explained how this year the expenditure exceeded receipts with investment in coach training and new boats and other equipment. All things designed to improve the quality of training and the variety of paddling available to the membership. It is expected that the coming year will see a surplus of receipts against expenditure, helping contribute to the still-healthy balance remaining in the bank. This is being saved for investing in improved storage and changing facilities in the longer term.

The Club will be buying waterproof stickers to identify all kit and a new logo illustration has been created for this and other general purposes by Julie Perren. We may also be looking at producing some branded Canoe Club clothing this year, rash vests or fleeces perhaps. Your views are welcome.

Election of Officers

Rob Dack stood down as Chair after many years in the role and Roger Lane offered to take on the role. However, no-one came forward to take on the position of Secretary and until someone does, Roger cannot take over the Chair.



Julie on the tidal Dart heading towards Totnes on the rising tide. Pic courtesy Paul Rutherford

The Club constitution states that there must be a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, and if no-one is willing to be Secretary we will have a serious problem as **the Club will not be able to continue!**

Assuming someone out there can find a few hours a month to help out as Secretary, we may need an EGM to ratify the appointment. Please get in touch urgently if you are able to help with this position.

So what does the Secretary do? The role includes forwarding emails and information to the committee, including mailings from Canoe England/BCU, managing the full club mailing list and sending emails 'bcc' to membership; maintaining BCU subscription records in conjunction with the Membership Officer; dealing with occasional general telephone and email queries about the Club; assisting with Club Mark paperwork; take and circulate minutes of Committee Meetings (approx 4 per year) and the AGM; publicise the Club and liaise with local press and other media occasionally. Roger as Chair would continue to produce the newsletter.

*Other Officer positions (** indicates new person in position)*

Treasurer – Bill Hargreaves

Coaching Coordinator Juniors/Mondays – Martin Jones

Coaching Coordinator Seniors/Tuesdays – Chas Billing**
 Welfare Officer – Paul Tweed
 Equipment Officer – Chas Billing
 Safety Officer – Chas Billing**
 Webmaster – Mik Wells
 Social Secretary – Jeremy van Riemsdyke

The Club Operating and Safety Policies are available to view online and were all approved for another year.

Again it was agreed to continue with all trips and pool sessions being free to members with Membership unchanged at £60/£42/£18/£18 Family/Adult/Junior/Associate.

Training sessions summer & Winter @ £6 adults, £5 juniors also unchanged from last year.

Kit hire to members free of charge (unless being used for commercial purposes). (Must be booked out with Chas though)

Calendar

The draft calendar has been agreed and is almost ready for circulation

2013 Events			
TE	TIME	VENUE	EVENT
RCH			
Tuesday 2 nd /9 th	09:00:00	Boat Shed	Stocktake & tidy
Tuesday 23 rd	10:30 - 14:00	KEVICCS	Taster Session
Tuesday 30 th	17:00 - 19:00	Totnes Pavilions Pool	Pool Session
RIL			
Monday 15 th	18:30 - 20:30	KEVICCS	Paddle Power S
Tuesday 16 th	18:30 - 20:30	KEVICCS	Summer Tuesda
Tuesday 27 th	17:00 - 19:00	Totnes Pavilions Pool	Pool Session
Y			
Tuesday 4 th	10:30 @ KEVIC	River Exe/Canal HT 13:30	CLUB TRIP con
Tuesday 25 th	17:00-19:00	Totnes Pavilions Pool	Pool session
NE			
Monday 16 th	TBA	Dart Totnes HT ??:??	CLUB TRIP con
Tuesday 29 th	16:30 @ KEVIC	Camping trip on Dart HT 18:00??	CLUB TRIP con
Tuesday 29 th	17:00 - 19:00	Totnes Pavilions Pool	Pool session
Y			
6 th - Sun 8 th	All weekend	Cornwall	Surf/Family w/le

Key dates:

Stock check 2 March (if dry) 9.00am. All borrowed club kit to be returned before this date

Taster Session 23 March

Surf trip needs organiser 6-8 July - discuss at committee

Tryweryn – bunk barn booked & deposit paid 6-8 Sept

WWS&R 29 Sept

AGM 2014: 24 January, Dartmouth Inn, 19:00

Staverton Access – 32 separate signed forms showing logged access prior to 20 years ago passed to Devon CC to claim public right of way; residents notified last week.

Club Membership cards to be created this year

AS Watersports offer – club will set up an account, this will entitle members to get discount on production of membership card, and the club gains loyalty points to spend on kit for the Club. More details to be circulated.

AS Watersports have also offered to provide taster sessions with different types of boat, either in Totnes or at the shop in Exeter.

Pool session – Paul Tweed to check coach availability prior to each pool session to ensure sufficient coach cover.

Peer Trip Activity

It may not seem that way to non white water paddlers, but it doesn't seem to have rained properly for ages! Not to be outdone though eight of us took long pointy boats off down the River Dart in freezing temperatures last weekend. It was great to see one of the new sea boats getting an outing. The forecast was for sunshine all day, and although the sun did show its face occasionally, it also snowed for a while, not quite what we wanted.

Half the group went as far as Stoke Gabriel, the rest on to Dittisham, both sets paddling back up to Totnes on the rising tide. It took a long while for our hands and toes to thaw out but it was a great day out nonetheless.



Lunch on the foreshore at Stoke Gabriel with one of the new Club sea boats on the left. Pic courtesy Paul Rutherford

There have been many trips on white water over the last few weeks. Two weeks ago several overlapping groups of Club members paddled various sections of the Dart, with the first crowd leaving Dartmeet and paddling the Upper to join the next group at Newbridge to paddle the Loop, and most of that group then paddled the Lower (Middle) section down to Buckfastleigh. The levels were reasonable but not particularly high, but it was terrific fun.

Another week a party of relatively experienced paddlers embarked on a lively trip on the Teign. Levels were higher than expected which made for much excitement.

Our Bonkers Rivers Correspondent* (Donald Barr) advised that sadly no picture evidence was available of this 'interesting' Teign trip. He explained how the trip was an excellent example of how one incident can quickly become several incidents, but with the group putting their White Water Safety and Rescue training into practice everyone was kept safe and all the kit was recovered. Even if after some long walks for some**.

Don contrasted this with another recent trip – a rather mellow trip on the Tavy from Tavistock to Denham Bridge: that was a lovely sunny day, with plenty of playing on the waves and not even a roll – let alone an out of boat experience.

* Of course I mean the rivers are bonkers, not the correspondent (your honour)

** names available on payment of a large fee

Stock Check/Kit Check

Please join Chas this Saturday 2 March at the boatshed from 9.00. The plan is to clear the shed, stockcheck and ensure all the kit is ready for the new season, making repairs as necessary. All welcome – the more of us who go the quicker it will be!

If you have any Club kit on loan please contact Chas immediately so it can be accounted for.

Pool Session

The next session will be on 30 March (Easter Saturday) subject to coach availability.

Sessions are now from 17:00 until 18:45 as Tadpool/Pavillion have reduced the session so their staff can leave the building at 7:00. We have no choice in this.

With the reduced session, timing is now roughly 17:00 to 17:50 for beginners; 17:50 to 18:45 for improvers, as always dependent on numbers on the night.

Please do not bring your own boats as the Pool Management won't allow it – they never have, but didn't enforce the rule in recent years.

Taster Session

The publicity is out there...tell your friends to come along. And remember to sign yourself up for the courses you want to get on before the masses get there first!

Here's what we're telling people:

KAYAK OR CANOE

WITH

Totnes Canoe Club



Free taster session on
Sat 23rd March from 10.30 – 1.00pm
Park in KEVICC lower school car park
(By the pedestrian bridge/playing field)
Follow signs to the river bank above the weir.

Enrol on our fun Monday/Tuesday evening courses for beginners and improvers from April 15th 2013
All courses run by qualified BCU coaches. Kayaks, canoes and all equipment provided. Adults, families and juniors from age 8 upward are welcome.

Interested? To register or for information, please email enrolments@totnescanooclub.org.uk



End of Winter Season Paddling and Party

If you are interested in mixing with paddlers from all over the country you could do worse than attend this event at the Country Park this coming weekend.

This is nothing to do with the Club but should be a great day and evening of paddling related fun and partying:

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

Yahoo Group

Keep in the picture and join the group. Its a simply a mail forwarding system for members to share suggestions and questions about peer group trips, and other things of interest. To keep things simple it covers all activities from whitewater through to sea, surf and estuary paddling. Group the emails by subject and its actually very easy to use (honest). Go to <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/totnescc/> and follow the instructions to sign up!

You Know You're a Paddler If ...

1. You can't drive over a bridge without looking for water under it
2. You love it when it rains during the week
3. You watch a leaf bobbing down a stream and you start to pick out the best lines for it.
4. You describe your house as being on road right.
5. You tie down the boat better than you seatbelt the kids in the car.
6. Your friends or relatives are shocked when you answer the phone at home on a weekend.
7. Your choice of chocolate bar revolves around how waterproof the packaging is.
8. Your boat is worth more than your car – you measure major purchases relative to the cost of a new boat ... 'that new computer will cost me about 2 ¼ kayaks'
9. When teaching your young children road safety, you refer to the pavement as "the bank".
10. When teaching your daughter to drive, you tell her to break in/out of the traffic.
11. You no longer find a shirt and tie uncomfortable as both are more tolerable than dry cag neck seals
12. You are fascinated by the recirculation of water in the sink when you turn the tap on full blast
13. You can identify the make and model of a kayak on top of a car from a quarter of a mile away.
14. "Waterproof" means "a little damp" or "might-float."
15. You build a two-car garage and still can't get the car in.