

Newsletter March 2013

The weekly sessions will be upon us before we know it and the calendar sent out with this newsletter should whet your appetite for the formal activities available this year. Please get your membership renewed promptly, and remember that the courses are already filling up so don't delay! We look forward to seeing you on the water very soon.

Secretary Position

Please consider putting yourself forward for this position. No-one has yet come forward and as you all know the Club can only function on the goodwill of its volunteers. If you think the Club provides a valuable service we need to hear from you! All the coaches and committee members are volunteers and if the Club is to thrive long term we need new people to come through and help.

We are looking at just a few hours a month with tasks such as forwarding emails and information from Canoe England/BCU to the committee, 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; taking and circulate minutes of Committee Meetings (approx 4 per year) and the AGM; and subject to time available, publicise the Club and liaise with local press and other media occasionally.

Other tasks traditionally part of the role – such as the Newsletter, managing the mailing list, and sending out full club mailings – have been absorbed into other positions so the demands are not too onerous.

AS Watersports

We are very pleased to announce that we have joined AS Watersports' new "Kit for Clubs" scheme. As a member of Totnes Canoe Club you are entitled to discount on all purchases (excluding sale items). When you have a membership card show that, until then they are happy if simply say you are a member of the Club.



They are offering 10% discount on most kit, some paddle brands are a bit less than that and boat prices are negotiable. This is not available for online sales.

In addition, for every full £10.00 you spend in their shop at Haven Banks in Exeter you will get one voucher. Please pass any vouchers you get to Bill Hargreaves or to one of the coaches to pass on to him. The Club can then redeem the vouchers against a variety of paddling products for the club.

Its a win-win-win deal! You benefit from a discount on things you buy, the Club benefits by getting some kit for free, the shop benefits by getting more customers.

Recreational/SoT

This year the Club will be running a recreational paddling course as well as the usual BCU One Star training. The One Star course is for people wanting structured training and who may want to progress through the star awards to move onto whitewater, sea paddling and/or open boating.

The new course is aimed at people who simply want to be able to paddle a kayak, whether a sit-on-top or closed



cockpit, in safety. The Club now has 3 Perception Scooter sit-on-tops in Surf specification (as illustrated) for those who aren't comfortable with closed cockpits. They are also really good fun for surfing so try one out at the beach someday!



Stock Check/Kit Check

Thanks must go to Chas, Bill, Ed, Don, Roger, Ali, Yvette, Yvette's niece, Tom, Trevor (from his sick bed), and Ollie for turning out on a cold Saturday morning to get all the kit out of the shed.

All boats, BA's, spraydecks, paddles and miscellaneous items were given a thorough check and repairs made as necessary ready for the weekly sessions.

New Logo

We hope you like the new logo which is now appearing on Club documentation and promotional items. It will be used for stickers on all the kit, and hopefully the Club will offer some items of Club branded clothing in due course. Thanks to Julie for the drawing, Mik/Roger for the graphic.



The Club's new sea boats are like this, but in orange. Take one for a spin sometime!

Peer Trip Activity

The rivers have been very low since the last newsletter so there hasn't been any white water paddling.

Last weekend a few hardy souls paddled out of the Yealm estuary in very windy conditions, looked at the rough sea and promptly turned around! Instead they headed back up past Newton Ferrers enjoying the gnarled oak forests lining the valley with the help of the incoming tide. They didn't enjoy the strong headwind so much, but on the way back down this wind against the tide created some helpful surf waves that could be used to advantage.

The traditional paddling season on the Dart has finished, but when levels are suitable (ie high) there will no doubt be people paddling whitewater whilst enjoying the warmer weather. There will be plenty of sea and flat water peer trips coming up so keep an eye on the Yahoo group and make sure you don't miss out!

Pool Session

The next session will be on 30 March (Easter Saturday). Sessions are now from 17:00 until 18:45. 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.

The Paddler Online Magazine

If you want to read about all different types of kayaking, from whitewater to sea, from expeditions in the UK and overseas, and even with stand-up paddle boarding and surf kayaking, check out this FREE online magazine. It has some stunning photography and inspiration, and you could win a Wave Sport Ethos River Cruise Kayak:

www.issuu.com/thepaddler

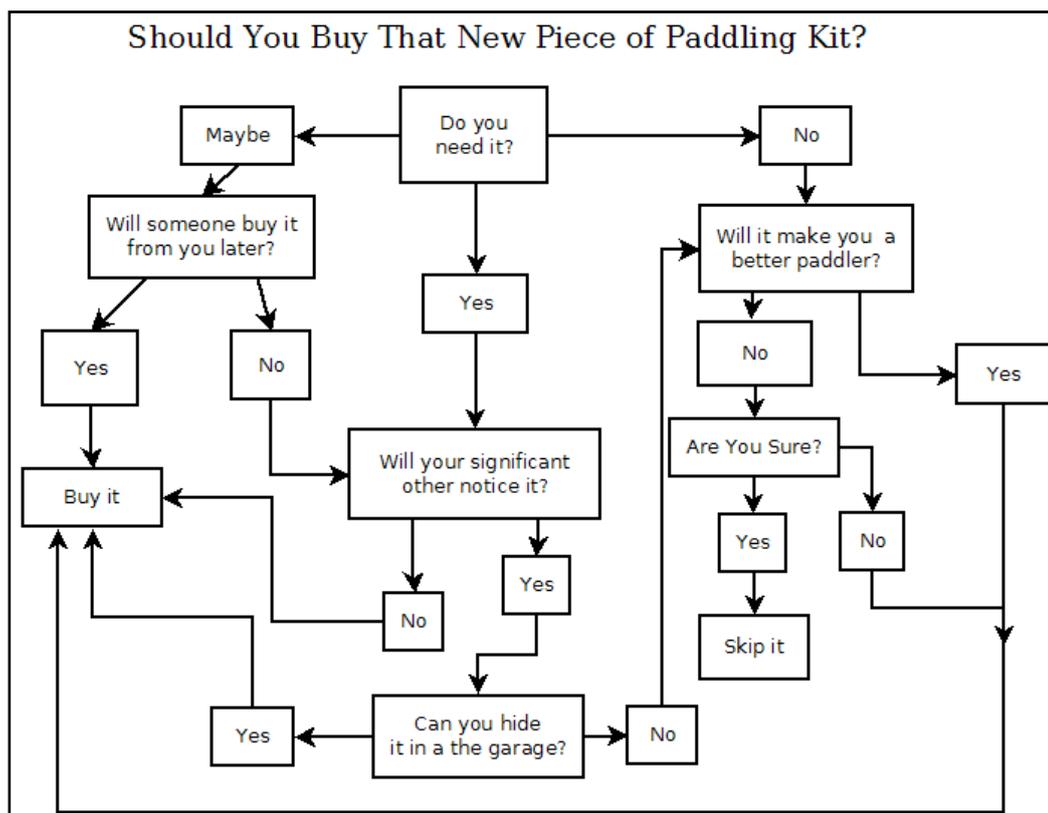


Taster Session

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!

The free taster session is on Sat 23rd March from 10.30 – 1.00pm. If you need any further information, please email

enrolments@totnescanoecub.org.uk



With the new season upon us again its a good time to buy those pieces of kit you know you really need. With the offer from AS Watersports we thought it would be useful to provide this scientifically proven guide to decision making.

(This was shamelessly lifted from the Internet, courtesy Paddlelight.com, who in turn nicked it from guitarsquid.com)