

Totnes Canoe Club



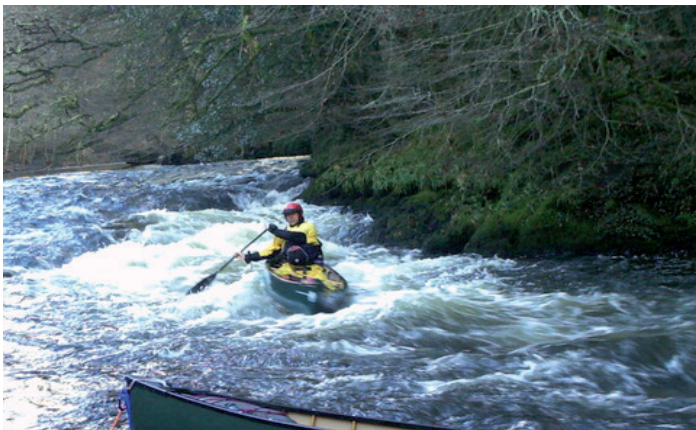
Newsletter February 2011

Welcome to the February Newsletter. We have had an active winter with plenty of white water – either locally when the rains came, or up in Wales when artificial means are needed. The AGM was held in January and some important changes have been made to the way the Club is run. Read on to find out more!

Pool Sessions

Apologies on behalf of Tadpool who got rather confused at the last pool session in January. People enquiring at reception were told there was no kayak session – although anyone just coming through to the pool found a session in full swing - if a little quieter than usual...

The next session is this coming Saturday 26th Feb: 5.00–6.00 for beginners, 6.00–7.00 for intermediates. Please *do not* bring your own boat as the pool gets too crowded, unless exceptionally by prior arrangement.



4 Star Open Boat Training for Coaches

Taster Day

Saturday 19 March 10:00 to 14:00 and is primarily for people who are new to the Club so please tell your friends about it.

New Season

Any existing members wishing to sign up for 2011 training should contact Sarah to reserve your places on any course, ideally before the taster day, to ensure success. Payment with booking please.

Kit

A kit audit has been set for 20th March, after the taster day. Please return any borrowed Club kit before then. The XXL BA's are proving very popular. More junior boats are desired – but the Club needs more coaches to utilise these. New equipment for the new season will be discussed at the next committee meeting

Peer trips

Various groups have paddled the Barle (on Exmoor), various sections of the Dart, as well as more trips to the Cardiff White Water centre. See the end of this Newsletter for a report from the river.

Tamar Paddle

This Sunday sees a Club trip to the tidal river Tamar, paddling from Calstock up with the tide.

AGM

Treasurer

The bank balance is healthy – we have been building up a reserve with the ultimate aim of getting a Club House one day.

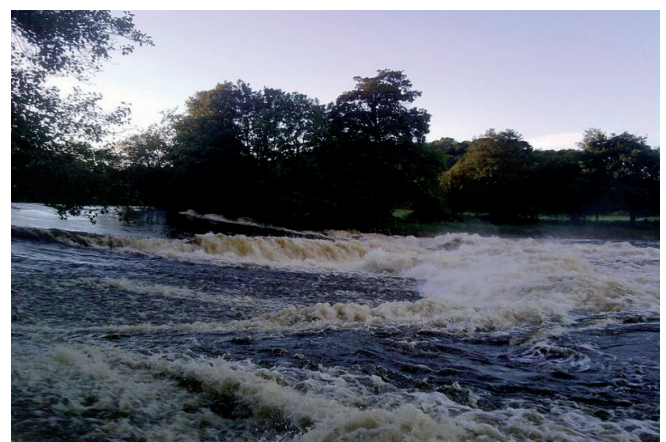
Much time was taken up last year chasing payment of fees – the Club will now insist on payment in order to reserve a place on a course, this is also in fairness to other people wishing to join courses when places are limited.

Chairman

The cost of training and assessments for coaching continues to increase and we have continued to support club coaches including the new 4 and 5 Star which are now leadership awards, thus enabling club trips on more challenging rivers.

We have continued to increase the club equipment in specific areas so, as well as White water kayaks and equipment, 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.

Club trips have continued and are very well subscribed. This year these have included river trips to Exeter, to Dittisham, Kingsbridge estuary, the River Avon to Bantham, the Erme estuary, a night paddle, a surf weekend and many members made the annual pilgrimage to the Tryweryn before the white water



Totnes Weir in spate - approach at your own peril...

season. We also organised a fun day in the summer which was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy playing games and different ways of getting wet, including some of the coaches.

We started the Yahoo group part way through last to take over from the separate e-mail lists, we are always looking at ways of coordinating trips to give club members the maximum opportunities and this is working well. However, we are always open to new ideas.

Volunteers – we would like to encourage more people to help in many areas including non-paddlers.

Chief Instructors' Reports

Adrian: Monday Paddlepower sessions still going well and popular and oversubscribed. Still at capacity for the number of coaches – more needed. If we get more coaches we will then need more junior boats.

Yvette: Large number of attendees through season o the Tuesday night sessions and we had enough coaches and improved organisation.

The Club will continue with the BCU star awards but will ensure people know they can just – for example – take kayak to 2* standard without open canoe although they won't get the BCU certificate.

Officers

The following were all re-elected unopposed.

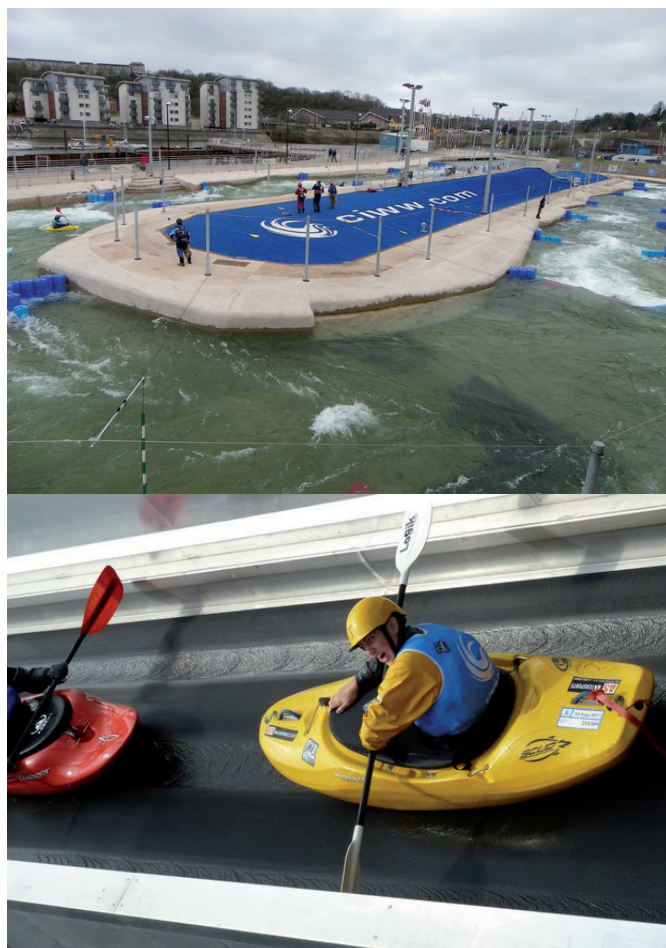
Chair	Rob Dack
Secretary	Roger Lane
Treasurer & Membership	Sarah Rea
Quartermaster	Chas Billing
Senior Coach Co-ordinator	Yvette Steele
Safety Officer/Webmaster	Paul Lovell
Social Secretary/Christmas Party	Jeremy van Riemsdyke

Junior Coach Co-ordinator – this role will be spread across the Monday coaches (Jerome, Martin and Paul)

Junior Representative	Alex Bukvic
Welfare Officer	Paul Tweed

Website

We will change hosting to improve the search engine optimisation and this will incur an increased but still relatively small annual fee,
More photos requested by Paul Lovell to place on the website – please send your favourite shots to paul.lovell1@blueyonder.co.uk



Fees

Changed to rationalise and improve membership benefits. New rates apply from start of 2011 sessions.

Membership	£60	Family
	£42	Adult
	£18	Junior

Note that all pool sessions will now be included in membership and incur no extra charge. The first taster pool session for non-members is still free.

All Club trips free to members.

Kit hire £5 per day (free on Club trips, peer group trips – the committee will try and adopt a common sense approach) but hirers must arrange their own insurance. Commercial rates to be negotiated by Treasurer with any interested commercial providers

Club sessions	£6 per session x6 sessions	ADULT
	£36 payable in advance of course	
	£5 per session x6 sessions	JUNIOR
	£30 payable in advance of course	

WW Course	£6 per session payable in advance of course
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Next year's AGM Dartmouth Inn, Friday Feb 3rd 2012 7.00pm Again, this is open to all members, and is your big chance to say how the Club is run.

(Left) Sometimes you just can't find the river...



The Upper West Dart

our special correspondent writes

We had some fun on a recent and very wet Sunday. Meeting at New Bridge we found the water flowing through the third arch and up to the bottom of the steps. Lots of kayakers there, many looking but not so many actually getting on the water! We decided to split the group and some of us headed for the West Dart, on the theory that being higher up there would be a smaller catchment and hence less water - however there was still plenty.

The other group went to Austin's bridge on the theory that being lower down there would be gentler water – or maybe the theory was that if you went for a swim it was not as far to Dartmouth!

Anyway, we had a good time on the West Dart, I really like this river, the first half mile is high on the moor and you can see for miles in every direction – quite surreal, really; then it gets better and better all the way down to Hexworthy, except for a few sections with overhanging trees which are a bit of a head-down bash through the middle, trying to hang on to your paddle. First time for everyone except me, and with my memory I could not remember much! Special mention for Alex and Rowan who sailed down everything with some style making it look easy!

The other group had fun too, apparently one member and his boat got separated almost immediately, the boat having the longer run of the two. Then there was another incident that resulted in the Topo Duo being left on an island by Staverton weir – recovered several days later when the water had subsided.

So: a grand day out!

Contacts

Secretary: Roger Lane	tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk
Chairman: Rob Dack	robdack@blueyonder.co.uk
Membership: Sarah Rea	adrianandsarah@aol.co.uk
Kit: Chas Billing	chas@billing123.plus.com