



# PPCA Newsletter

## April 2019

## Introduction

Welcome to April's Newsletter. This month, in one of our occasional bumper editions, Clive offers some instruction, Dave encounters the Navy and Marty attempts to guide us through the labyrinth that is British Canoeing. Elsewhere, Mark has some interesting news that warrants some thought, Terry waxes nostalgic and Adam has some news about how we pay our membership.

## Editorial

A slightly sad duty this month as we say farewell to David Pedlow as a paddler.

Dave has been a stalwart of the Newsletter for many years, regularly contributing several articles each year in his inimitable style. I'm sure I speak for all the previous Newsletter editors when I say a huge thank you to him for his contributions and I'm sure everyone will want to wish him all the best for the future.

We're also saying goodbye to Tony Sicklemore both as Treasurer and as a member.

Tony has made an enormous contribution to the club over the years and quite rightly won the Outstanding Contribution award last year. I'm sure everyone is sorry to see him leave.

Golly, that's all very downbeat. There's some cheerful stuff in there as well.

I can't help thinking that if Terry's diving boards were still there, it would answer Mark's question. Now you'll have to read the articles to find out what I'm on about.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

## Next Committee Meeting

Please forward any items you would like considered at the next committee meeting to [secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk). They will go to the secretary.

## Next Edition

There is no specific deadline as such for contributions but please bear in mind my general sloth and indolence and let me have anything time-sensitive well in advance.

## Contributions

Please send any contributions to [newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

## Acknowledgements

The cover photographers for April are Debbie Rowlands, Terry Calcott, Adam Coulson and Joy Ashford. Many thanks



## News

### Easter Paddle, Saturday 20th April from Wembury Beach by Terry Calcott

The Easter paddle will start & finish from Wembury beach. Meet at the beach car park (GR 518484), ready to paddle for 10:30, (0930 at Mountbatten for club equipment).

It has become a PPCA tradition over the years that paddlers dress in some form of Easter theme. We also have a communal feast of Easter food to share with each other. Details will be posted on the forum nearer the date. Where we paddle from will still be dependent on the weather/sea conditions on the day (if inclement it will be from MB).



### Intermediate Sea Kayak Trips by Clive Ashford

Remember the long hot summer of 2018? Hoping for the same in 2019? Want to take part in some intermediate sea kayak trips (hopefully) sweltering under clear blue skies? Well you are lucky people because I am going to run a series of intermediate sea kayak trips over the summer months. The dates are:

Sun 14 April.

Sun 19 May.

Sat & Sun 29 & 30 June (Overnight camp).

Sun 21 July.

Sun 18 Aug.

Sun 22 Sept.

Obviously I can't guarantee the weather but the aim is for these trips to be away from Mount Batten and will be longer and more demanding than our first Saturday of the month trips. If the weather isn't very good we may well spend a bit of time doing rescue drills in the Sound.

Trip details will appear on the club forum nearer to the date. Club sea kayaks are available for these trips and can be booked via equipment officer Pete Anderson [equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk) or 07958 694434. You will need to be able to transport them.

If you want further info/advice please don't hesitate to contact me, Clive Ashford,

Tel 01752 344425

Mob 07854 648584

E-mail [cliveandjoy01@gmail.com](mailto:cliveandjoy01@gmail.com)

Bet you're so excited aren't you?



Photo by Joy

## British Canoeing Awards by Marty Johnston, Assistant Club Leader

Hi all,

With the start of our upcoming summer program nearly here (yay!) I wanted to give you some more information and explanation to the recent changes to the summer program which should now be available to everyone on the calendar.

BC have made several changes to their programmes and awards in line with making these more focussed around the individual needs of the paddler, and encouraging personal development. The actual content of the courses and awards has not significantly changed, however some of the new wording and new assessment methods will be different to the current system.

Last year the summer programme (the Tuesday evening paddles) consisted of BC 2\* training, BC 3\* training and a Rec Paddle. The new BC training system has replaced the 'Star' awards with a range of 'Paddle' and 'Personal Performance' awards.

I will do my best to explain the new system!

The new Paddle Awards consist of;

- Paddle Start - A taster session designed to get people into paddle sports
- Paddle Discover - Comparable to the 1\* award
- Paddle Explore - Comparable to the 2\* award

These courses are open to allow paddlers to choose how they proceed throughout the course, so now everyone is free to do any course in any craft! No longer do canoeists "have" to sit in a kayak, or indeed kayakers succumb to the darkside! (Although definitely encouraged!) Equally you could choose to do a Paddle Explore award in a kayak and then do it again in a canoe! Although at the present time the Tuesday sessions will be kayak based unless there is the demand for a coach to run a canoe session. If this is something anyone would be interested in then please let me know.

The Personal Performance Awards have become discipline specific, for example – Sea Kayak, Canoe, White Water - to name a few, there is an extensive list for these. The club will now be offering the Sea award on Tuesday evenings which would in effect replace the 3\* sessions that were run last year.

With these new awards there is no longer the need to register an assessment date with BC, instead once a paddler thinks they are ready to progress they can approach a coach and an assessment can be arranged. Please bear in mind we can't do this every week but we are able to offer more dates throughout the season.

Remember it's up to you to initiate this!!

All of these new awards can be found at the bottom of this page;

As a club we are embracing these new awards and believe that they will really encourage the personal development of all our club members!

On another note, there will be another choice for Tuesdays this year (we really are spoiled!!). This will be a 'Late Start' for those that struggle to get to the shed for 6. The Late Start option will be starting at 6.30, and will try to deliver paddlers to the nearest group if they wish to join that session, alternatively if there are particular skills you wish to practice or just get your mid week paddle fix, you can! This new late start is open to all types of boat so if you wanted to take an open canoe then please do! (a good way to work towards your paddle explore)

I hope this helps

If anyone has any queries, please don't hesitate to ask and I will do my best to get the right answers!

Happy paddling!!



## Members' Boat Storage by Adam Coulson, Membership Secretary

Many thanks to all who have paid their 2019 boat storage fees to the club. These fees cover part of the rent on the second shed that we have at Mountbatten. You may notice that I have labelled your boat (colour coded blue this year). If you have paid and your boat has not been tagged, but is now in the shed, then please let me know – I know that some have their General Purpose boats out for the white water season.

Please can the few who have not done so pay their storage fees for 2019 now. It is not fair on other members to use this facility without paying for it. Costs are just £40 for GP; £50 for SK or S-O-T and £62 for Canoe.

There is room for more General Purpose boats stored on their end in the shed as some have been removed. Please just get in touch if you would like to do so. In the summer it is very handy to have your boat already there on a Tuesday night.

At present there is a waiting list for Sea Kayak and canoes spaces, but let me know if you would like your name adding. Spaces do come up (a new canoe in there this year) and we are looking to try and increase the Sea Kayak storage space.

Adam Coulson

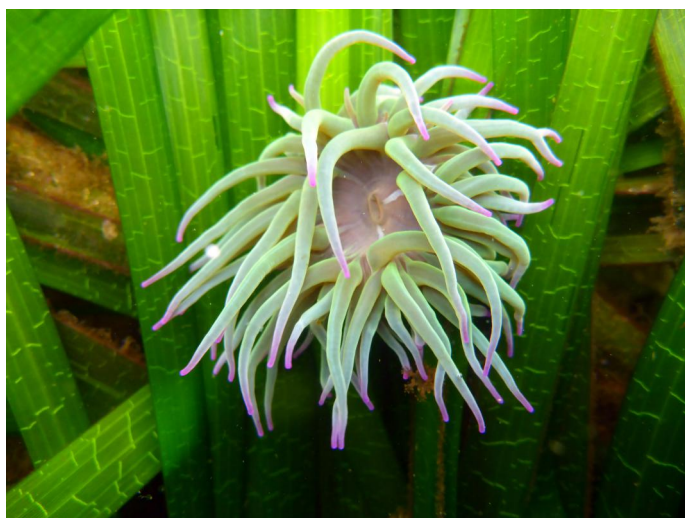
Membership Secretary

membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk



## Photo Competition Winner by Terry Calcott

Many thanks to the 16 club members that entered such a fabulous variety of photos covering all aspects of our sport. The 29 members that voted decided that the following were the top 3. As this is just a fun club competition there are no prizes awarded just the honour of being crowned a winner.



3rd Mary McArdle – Scilly Snakeslock.



2nd Keta Myskova – Rock Hopping.





1st Terry Calcott – Severn Illusion.

### Council Event by Mark Perry, Vice-Chair

Save the date !

As part of the 2020 Transat Race ( 4th - 10th May 2020 ) and Mayflower 400 celebrations Plymouth City Council have invited PPCA to participate in the Mayflower Ocean Festival on the Bank Holiday of 4th May 2020.

Timings are yet to be confirmed but the outline proposal is that PPCA be allocated a 30~45 min slot to showcase anything kayak / canoe related on the water just off the Hoe.

The Committee would welcome suggestions about how we could use this slot - eg skills demonstrations / fun relay race etc and also obviously volunteers to take part in a large turn out on the water.

We will also probably have a static stand on Madeira Drive overlooking the demo area to specifically raise PPCA's profile.

More info will be published as it becomes available but any early thoughts welcome.

Any budding commentators out there ?



## Mountbatten Centre Membership by Adam Coulson, Membership Secretary

The club has been based at Mount Batten for many years which provides space for both club and member's equipment; suitable launching access in most weathers and parking and changing facilities for affiliate members. Affiliate membership of the Mount Batten Centre is open to all PPCA members and represents a considerable saving on standard rates.

The benefits as listed in our membership forms include:

- **Free** Car Parking; Use of changing rooms, Showers, Toilets, and Pontoons.
- **10% Discount** on Bar prices (food & drink); Courses; Accommodation; and Merchandise

From May 2019 onwards, the centre will be running the affiliate membership directly. In practical terms this means that you will pay your PPCA subscription to the club and your Mount Batten membership directly to the centre. This can be done on the telephone or in person. Please make sure that you keep them advised of your registration number. In the event of any problems or queries, please approach The Mount Batten Centre directly:

### Mount Batten Centre

70 Lawrence Road

Mount Batten

Plymouth

PL9 9SJ

Phone: 01752 404567

Email: [enquiries@mount-batten-centre.com](mailto:enquiries@mount-batten-centre.com)

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MountBattenWatersports>

Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/mountbattencntr>

Follow us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/mountbattencentre/>



The club are happy to recommend Mount Batten membership. I, for one, would miss the free parking and hot showers if nothing else! It will be made clear on the PPCA renewal emails and forms when this change has been executed.



## Letter from Tony Sicklemore

Hero to Zero in just 6 months!

To think 6 months ago at the AGM 2018 I was celebrating after being awarded the 'Oscar Award' in recognition of the work I had put into the club. Now I feel forced to leave the PPCA.

As you read this article I will have resigned from the PPCA, the club I have been a proud member of for over 13 years. Resigning has been a very difficult and emotional decision, one which I have spent many hours contemplating over, and being counselled by numerous club members who have been strenuously pointing out the advantages of remaining with the club. I thank you for your patience with me, you know who you are!

So here is how I see/feel it (other views will no doubt be available!).

My position both as your treasurer and as a club member has been made untenable. At a recent committee meeting your democratically elected committee unanimously made a decision (in my absence) against a proposition I had put forward (money for prizes for the photo competition). I stand by my proposition as being for the good of the club and to support a club member.

Just prior to my proposition I had informed the committee (in writing) that the total amount of money in the club accounts stood at £29,497.00. Yes, club funds stood at just short of £30K!

Here is the extract from the Committee Minutes from the 13th Feb 2017 meeting:

### Photo competition prize

Can we vote on allocating a sum not to exceed £50 for prizes for the Photo competition

- **The Committee took a vote and agreed that the sum of £10 should suffice for cost of a prize**

With the vote going 100% against what I believe in I cannot sit idly by and accept the decision. A poultry £10 for two prizes for a club competition, last year we allocated £35 for prizes, we have over £29k in the bank!. During the 2 week period before or after the committee meeting no member of the committee communicated with me to discuss my proposition.

I believe I have been left with no other option but to resign as your treasurer and further, resign from the PPCA. Everyone will take a different view of my decision which is understandable. Simply, I believe the committee did not trust or respect me to put the interest of the club first and foremost, and that the committee will not support any member who raises their head above the parapet and organise anything outside of a club paddle.

But can I also just say that all committee members generally do a fantastic job running the club on your behalf, they gave up their spare time and are often un-thanked for their endeavours. But this time in my humble opinion the committee got it wrong and like in life, we all must shoulder responsibility for decisions we take and the consequences of those decisions.

As I depart can I make several pleas to club members?

- Can someone follow on and take the lead with the coastal clean-up paddles? The club gained so much publicity last year with organisations such as Plymouth Labour Party, Plymouth City Council, Plymouth Against Plastics, Plastic Free Plymouth, Surfers Against Sewage, the list goes on! The club really is ideally equipped and situated to 'adopt' the coastline from Fort Bovisand back to Mount Batten beach and make it a regular event to





remove the pollution from that beautiful stretch of coastline.

- Paddlefest. Last year 9 club members attended, this year we have 16 members going, next year with the 2020 celebrations (400th anniversary of the Mayflower sailing from Plymouth) Paddlefest is due to feature highly in the City's programme of events. The PPCA is the only kayak club endorsed by the Paddlefest organisers due to our support last year, the club could gain enormous publicity by keeping involved with this event.

- The Scillies 2020 (IOS 2020). There is £395 ring-fenced in the club accounts for the IOS 2020 but the booking of the campsite has to be made late Jul/Aug 2019. Those who have done previous club trips to the Scillies will tell you what a fabulous area it is to paddle, you just need an organiser. If the £395 isn't used it is likely to be returned and swallowed within the clubs general account.

So my friends and fellow paddlers, I want to say 'Thank you' for making my time in the PPCA so enjoyable and giving me so many wonderful memories, together we have paddled some fantastic and beautiful stretches of water often enjoying a variety of experiences along the way. And I must mention cake! Delicious cake, thank you to the Bakers! Thank you.

A special 'thank you' to the coaches and leaders who give so much of their time to make the club work, without who you wouldn't have a club! The Norwegians would say "tusen takk", a 1,000 thanks!

So its au revoir from me, I will still be paddling so we may see each other on the water.

I hope you can understand my reason for resigning as your treasurer and taking a break from the PPCA.

Stay safe.

See you somewhere wet.

Tony

### Editor's Note

Tony sent me his letter of resignation and asked me to publish it in the Newsletter which I was happy to do. I have reproduced it as Tony sent it, without comment. As it contains comments about the Committee, I felt that there should be a right of reply. Ken's comments as Chair are reproduced below, also without comment.

### Reply from Ken Hamblin, Chair

The Committee carefully consider how members fees should be best spent for the maximum benefit for all the members - this is a balance between equipment, facilities, events and keeping a healthy reserve. A democratic decision was taken by the Committee which Tony didn't agree with. The Committee regrets that a competition primarily for fun has led to the resignation of a valued Committee and club member.

Committee members will be happy to discuss the details in person if requested

## New Club Treasurer by Ken Hamblin, Chair

Thankfully after a request was circulated to all our club members Sharne Dodds very quickly popped her head above the parapet and has volunteered to take over the running of the PPCA accounts. Sharne is an enthusiastic bubbly lady who along with her daughter, Sadie are members paddling with the club. Sharne informs me that she started her paddling career back in about 1983 when the club was situated down on the Barbican. She paddled for a couple of years there and then went chasing her career in finance. Currently Sharne is employed in a financial position with the Mars /Wrigley's Group based in Plymouth, so having in addition to running a sports club account for a few years, is well qualified to take over the running of our club accounts. Sharne rejoined the PPCA back in the middle of last year and has been attending both last year's summer training sessions continuing through the winter on many of the Pool sessions trying to build confidence and improve her Eskimo roll – still in progress I am told.....

Thank you Sharne and we all look forward to paddling with the both of you in the future





Port Of Plymouth Canoeing Association  
70 Lawrence Road  
Plymouth  
PL9 9SJ  
[www.ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](http://www.ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)



### DIARY DATE – PADDLEFEST 2019



#### **WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

The South West Paddle Fest is family festival all about meeting up in the great outdoors and having fun, camping, enjoying a paddle regardless of craft or ability and meeting new friends all whilst raising money for charity!

#### **WHO IS IT FOR?**

All kayakers, canoeists, stand up paddle board enthusiasts, walkers, hikers, campers, brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, grandparents and even the dog as long as it's well behaved. Encourage your friends, there's plenty to do and there's plenty of room!

#### **WHERE IS IT BEING HELD?**

Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, Cornwall, PL10 1HZ situated on the breath taking South East Peninsula of Cornwall

#### **TICKETS**

Discounted tickets are available from the PPCA Club Treasurer, price on application, please email: [treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

FURTHER INFORMATION AT <http://www.southwestpaddlefest.com/>

For more information contact: Tony Sicklemore  
Email: [Treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

## Features

### Thanks for All the Fish (with Apologies to Douglas Adams) by David Pedlow

It is clear that what I optimistically thought of as a “winter layover”, thanks to the state of my Vagonised, semi-perished lungs, is going to be permanent.

I can only thank EMU and Gavin, who encouraged and accompanied me on shorter and shorter paddles last summer, for extending my paddling career over those last six months, but in a perfect world, I would now perform a perfect tail flip, and disappear into hyper-space, firmly clutching my towel..

Instead, here’s one last winter paddling memory, from whenever.

How we got there is another story, but we (Gavin, Jane, EMU and myself) launched from the “Gun Beach” at Penlee Point at the bottom of the Spring Tide, into massive swells and a developing SW gale, about half an hour before HMS Echo was due to pass the Western Entrance en route for Cawsand Bay.

Launching wasn’t as quick as it might have been, and then there was some discussion as to just which line to take, given that the Breakwater Light was hidden in a fog bank, and by the time we had got the measure of the swells, we were all anxiously peering through the mist to seaward. Just as we thought we’d safely crossed ahead of her, there she was – or at least there in the storm torn greyness, was a more solid patch of grey heading down towards us.

We turned back to group up in what seemed to be a safe position, not too fine off the port bow of whatever it was, and turned southwards to hold station; watching her becoming steadily more solid on the swell crests, and then disappearing into the troughs.

HMS Echo was slowly feeling her way in through the mist patches. Once we were level with, and about half a cable’s length to port of her bow, we started to paddle on an opposing course, climbing ever steeper swells until at last we could cross under her stern, and head for the solidish patch to starboard of her that we hoped was the Breakwater Light.

It was a wild swooping paddle down those chasing swells, and we loved every minute of it.

I don’t know about the others, but that night my dreams were full of swirling fog banks, and HMS Echo playing hide and seek in the mists and the great seas. Now that I am firmly on the beach, it’s one of the abiding, utterly satisfying, memories that lives with me, whenever the seas pile up against the Hoe walls, and Drake’s Island disappears into the clag.

### For Sale - Doug Sitch

I have two sets of uprights for sale - offers please.

They are rather rusty looking, so really need a wire brushing and some Hammerite. Any offers considered. First come first served.

Doug

07966740025



## Hoe Diving Boards by Terry Calcott

Before the Council decided to spoil the fun and remove the diving boards on the Hoe waterfront, they were regularly used by children and adults to have fun diving and jumping off. They were also used by the PPCA as an ideal structure to perfect seal launching from the various heights of the boards. The top platform was a daunting prospect and not for the faint hearted. I remember using one of the lower boards still in 2002. I have attached a few photos from different dates 1976, 1977, 1986 and 1988. Thanks to Steve Hoppins, Chris Yalland, Nick Benny and Emerson Freemantle for the photos.



1976



1988



1986



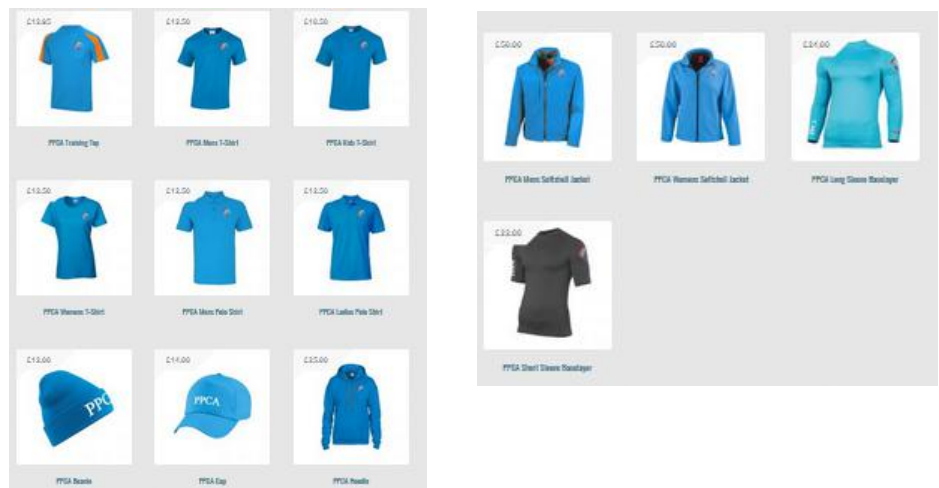
1977

## Exchange and Mart

### PPCA Club Clothing by Jackie Perry, Publicity Officer

A full range of customised kit in either blue or black is available to order direct from Tailored Branding via the link below

<https://hsclothing.co.uk/ppca-3/>



### Discount Available at Millets, 38/40 New George St, Plymouth PL1 1RW

One of our members works in the Millets store (Big 'Thank you' to Lee McKenzie!) on New George Street, Plymouth and has negotiated with his Manager a great discount of 15% on production of your PPCA club membership card. Usual T's & C's apply, e.g. goods already discounted/sales items might be excluded.

### Discount Available at Kayaks and Paddles

Kayaks and paddles offer discount to local kayak and canoe clubs. The PPCA and Tamar Canoe club can get a discount up to 15%. This is an offer not a right for the person that is making a purchase, so please do not go upsetting Kayaks and Paddles employees as this discount might be taken away.



## Club Calendar - Please Check Website for Updates

### For the Diary

10th to 12th May - Penzance trip

1st to 2nd June - Paddlefest

### Recreational Paddles (Saturdays)

6th April - Clive Ashford (Sea Paddle)

13th April - Terry Calcott

20th April - Terry Calcott (Easter Paddle)

27th April - Bob Grose

4th May - Ian Brim (Sea Paddle)

11th May - Gavin Bennett

18th May - Clive Ashford

25th May - Terry Calcott

### Open Canoe (Friday)

12th April - Ian Brim

19th April - Sam Pluckrose

26th April - Joy Ashford

3rd May - Pete Anderson

10th May - Jen Nicholls

17th May - Ian Brim

24th May - Jen Nicholls

### Paddle Power (Wednesdays)

8th May - Sam Pluckrose

15th May - Sam Pluckrose

22nd May - Sam Pluckrose

29th May - Sam Pluckrose

### Intermediate Sea Paddles (Sundays)

14th April - Clive Ashford

19th May - Clive Ashford

### Pool Sessions (Fridays)

5th April

### Courses

6th April - Paddle Start - Ian Brim

10th May - Intro - Clive Ashford

## Evening Sessions (Tuesdays)

2nd April	Explore Award - Pete Anderson Sea Award - Clive Ashford Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Joy Ashford	9th April	Explore Award - Pete Anderson Sea Award - Clive Ashford Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Joy Ashford
16th April	Explore Award - Pete Anderson Sea Award - Clive Ashford Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Joy Ashford	23rd April	Explore Award - Pete Anderson Sea Award - Clive Ashford Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Joy Ashford
30th April	Explore Award - Andy Kittle Sea Award - Chris Doidge Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Ken Hamblin	6th May	Explore Award - Andy Kittle Sea Award - Chris Doidge Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Ken Hamblin
13th May	Explore Award - Andy Kittle Sea Award - Chris Doidge Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Ken Hamblin	20th May	Explore Award - Andy Kittle Sea Award - Chris Doidge Late Start - Ian Brim Rec Paddle - Ken Hamblin



## The Committee

### Chair

Ken Hamblin  
chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07828 652775

### Vice-Chair

Mark Perry  
vchair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07801 310993

### Club Leader

Ian Brimacombe  
leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07720 957304

### Assistant Club Leader

Marty Johnston  
acleader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07731 360210

### Club Secretary

Jackie Perry  
secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07523 965748

### Membership Secretary

Adam Coulson  
membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07834 286461

### Welfare Officer

Rebekka Stiasny  
welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07939 328981

### Intro Course Coordinator

Jane Hitchings  
intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07837 796192

### Treasurer

Sharne Dodds  
treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

### Equipment Officer

Pete Anderson  
equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07958 694434

### Publicity Officer

Gavin Bennett  
publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
TBC

### Youth Development Officer

George Hamblin  
youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
07958 694434

### Club President

Bob Grose  
president@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk  
01803 849163