



PPCA Newsletter

February 2019



Introduction

Welcome to February's Newsletter. This month, Brim brings news of a change in the BC award scheme, we have a reminder of the photo competition and Clive throws modesty to the winds.

Please note, there are a couple of posters at the end of the Newsletter so please continue ploughing through it, even if the will to live deserts you as they're quite important.

Editorial

Spring is obviously getting closer. Brim is talking about the Tuesday sessions, Morag has sent us a photo of sunnier times and British Canoeing (I think that's their name this week) have changed the star awards. I haven't yet managed to track down the syllabus for the awards but apparently they are "very different in terms of content and purpose" so watch this space. You can also do them on a SUP or in polo if anyone fancies broadening their horizons.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

The Committee

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Next Committee Meeting

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

British Canoeing Personal Performance Awards by Ian Brimacombe, Club Leader

British Canoeing have changed the old 1* 2* 3* awards. They are now calling them Personal Performance Awards. So what difference will this make to you? The main difference is that you don't have to wait for an assessment date; you can approach a coach and ask to be assessed at any time you feel you have reached the required standard. There will still be different awards; the old 2* is now called the discovery award and the 3* is called the explorer award.

The club will still be running the Tuesday training nights but the sessions will now be called discovery and explorer sea award. The recreation paddle will run as normal.

If you wish to view the awards then click [here](#).

The Tuesday evening club sessions will still be starting at 6pm on the water but the club has decided that there will be provision for a late start for people who can't get there for 6pm allowing them to join the sessions at 6.30pm

PPCA Photograph Competition 2019 by Terry Calcott

I first organised a PPCA photo competition way back in 2010, with 18 club members entering a total of 46 photos. Over the years there have been many fantastic photos entered, the winning photo from 2010 is below. To continue this PPCA tradition I will be running a club photograph competition over the winter months.

The theme of the competition is paddlesport, so please submit photographs along those lines. They could include landscape, wildlife, people, action, humour. This is a fun amateur competition open to all club members. Dig out those photos or get snapping over the coming months. Please give any photos entered a suitable title.

The closing date for entries will be Thursday 28th Feb 2019.

The club members will be able to vote for their 3 favourite photos. Entries will be displayed on the club website and Facebook page. More details on how to vote nearer the time. A suitable date to announce the winning photos will be arranged, most probably during one of the club talks in 2019.

Rules:

Entrants must be PPCA members. All photos entered must be your own work and taken any time in 2018 up until the competition closing date in 2019.

Max of 3 photos per entry.

Prizes:

For best photo and the runner up.

Please submit your entries by e-mail to terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk



All About Me by Clive Ashford

On Sat 19 Jan 2019 the 19 people who attended the club rec paddle landed on the third beach at Bovisand for lunch. Three birthdays were being celebrated, Bruce and Gavin were celebrating a combined age that would grace any cricket scoreboard and Merryl was about to come of age, the age in question being 60. (If she learns to paddle upside down she will be just nine. She has the height for it.)

You can imagine that the occasion involved some sweet and sticky culinary delights. At risk of offending Mary, Bruce and Debbie I will single out Olivia, our token teenager, for a special mention. This was just Olivia's third rec paddle but she marked the occasion by producing delicious homemade cookies. Olivia is obviously a natural at this rec paddling game and is destined to fit in well. Maybe the club needs to consider employing a dentist.

But this is supposed to be all about me. Full of cake we re-launched onto the salty stuff and set off in the general direction of Bovisand Harbour. There was a nice little bit of swell running so in the blink of an eye there were two paddling groups, there were the sedate paddlers keeping away from the shore and engaging in gentle conversations and then, closer to the rocks and whooping and hollering, were the hooligans. This group were engaged in rock hopping and generally causing mayhem. Gentle readers, you may be a little shocked to learn that the hooligans had led me astray and that I was helping to cause this commotion.

To give you a bit of background information the swell was fairly gentle but when larger waves arrived they came through in sets of three. I had already noted this.

There was a very inviting gap in front of me, a gap that was soon filled with Gavin and his boat as he negotiated the obstacle with a typically flawless display of paddling skills. Now it was my turn and I approached the gap hoping to at least emulate what I had just witnessed. Spoiler alert. The fact that I am writing about this means that things didn't go so very well, but you already know that don't you?

I had just committed myself to going through the gap when the water level dropped dramatically. A sudden drop in water level is invariably followed by a surge of water that is often accompanied by surf. So a large wave was coming and as previously advised there were going to be three of them. They say that forewarned is forearmed but sometimes prior knowledge simply allows you to get frightened earlier.

The incoming surge of water started to engulf the gap. I have no idea how big this wave was but from my perspective it looked like a small tsunami. With absolutely no ceremony this wave dumped me high and dry but upright on the top of a barnacle encrusted rock. I use the word upright a bit loosely; the expression "jaunty angle" could well be used except that the word jaunty doesn't sit too well with my white knuckled grip on the paddle shaft or my eyes sticking out like organ stops. With a thousand barnacles acting like Velcro on my boat I wasn't going to slide anywhere so I waited for the next tsunami. I didn't have to wait long and I have to say that this tsunami was even bigger than the first. Exactly what happened is lost in a haze of frantic paddling and angry white water but when things calmed down I was higher up with barnacle Velcro sticking me to another rock, knuckles still white and eyes still seemingly a long way in front of their sockets. I made an attempt at taking stock of my surroundings but tsunami number three had other ideas. Another burst of adrenaline fuelled cardio vascular activity found me deposited into a water filled gully, luckily facing out to sea. Being afloat at least gave me a degree of control and as the gully drained I went with the water. By the time the fourth wave arrived I was facing it head on and going so fast that I simply burst through into calm water. (Remember that large waves came in sets of three, so the fourth wave was just a wave.) For the first time in what had seemed like a lifetime my world was no longer full of snarling surf, pointy barnacles and desperate seat of my pants reaction paddling. I looked around and gratefully registered the fact that three of the club's best sea paddlers were sitting just outside the surf break waiting to come to my rescue if things had got worse.

So perhaps it wasn't all about me after all, in fact it was never all about me which is why paddling with the club is such an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Editor's Note

Clive's article describes him getting into a tricky situation. Unfortunately no photographs were available. If anyone has any photos of Clive in a tricky situation (or anyone else for that matter) I'm sure they would go down well in the Photo Competition.

A Picture from Morag Thomson Findlay

Just to remind us that sunny days are just around the corner

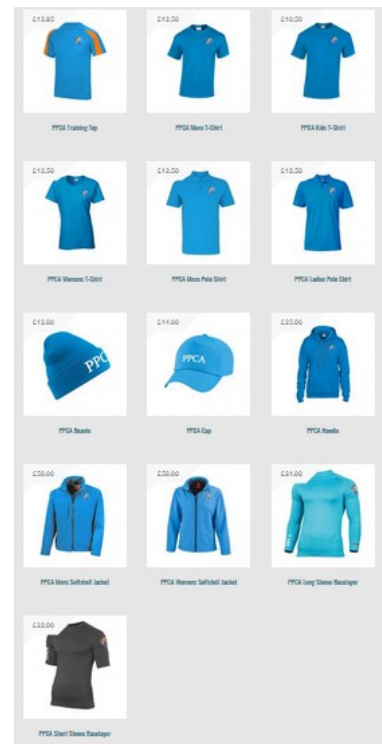


Exchange & Mart

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 new members of the PPCA 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.

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

Club Calendar

As ever, please remember that the definitive calendar is on the [website](#) and what's printed below, while correct at the time of going to press is subject to change at a moment's notice. Syncing your Google calendar with the club calendar via the website is a good way of ensuring you stay up to date.

Friday, 1 February 2019

Pool session

Saturday, 2 February 2019

Sea Paddle Bob Grose

Sunday, 3 February 2019

White Water Chris Doidge

Saturday, 9 February 2019

Rec Paddle Terry Calcott

Sunday, 10 February 2019

White Water Ken Hamblin

Saturday, 16 February 2019

Rec Paddle Joy Ashford

Sunday, 17 February 2019

Open Canoe River Trip Ian Brim

White Water Doug Sitch

Saturday, 23 February 2019

Rec Paddle Ian Brim

Sunday, 24 February 2019

White Water Clive Ashford

Friday, 1 March

Pool session

Saturday, 2 March

Sea Paddle Ian Brim

Sunday, 3 March

White Water Ken Hamblin

Saturday, 9 March

Rec Paddle TBC

Sunday, 10 March

Open Canoe River Trip Ian Brim

White Water Clive Ashford

Saturday, 16 March

Rec Paddle Terry Calcott

Sunday, 17 March

White Water Doug Sitch

Saturday, 23 March

Rec Paddle Andy Kittle

Sunday, 24 March

White Water Chris Doidge

Saturday, 30 March

Rec Paddle Bob Grouse

Sunday, 31 March

White Water TBC

Tuesday, 2 April

Discover award Pete Anderson

Explore award Clive Ashford

Late Start Brim

Rec Paddle Joy Ashford

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!

WHOSE IT FOR?

All kayaker's, canoeists, stand up paddle board enthusiasts, walker's, hiker's, campers, brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, grandparent's 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

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

DIARY DATE – Thu 21st Mar 2019

The Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association presents:

The PPCA Photo Competition Winners Announcement

Followed by

An evening of old fashioned pub skittles!

Thu 21st Mar 2019

Lee Moor Public Hall, Plymouth, PL7 5JR

Doors & bar open at 1900hrs

Winners presentation at 1915hrs

Food served 1930 – 2000hrs (at personal cost)

@2015hrs commence skittles, Hall closes at 2200hrs

An evening of drama and excitement! The announcement of the winner and runner-up of this year's photo competition (many thanks to Terry for organising) followed by games of good old fashioned skittles!

Food will be available, at the beginning of March we will circulate a menu, ask you to choose your dish and make a payment, food should cost @£5 per head. It will be pub type food eg sausage and chips etc. Vegan & vegetarian options will be available. If you have specific requests please let me know.

