



PPCA Newsletter

March 2020

Introduction

Welcome to March's Newsletter. This month Terry brings news of a course and a reminder of the Easter Paddle. We also have a piece from Bruce on the new British Canoeing strategy document. This is Bruce's personal opinion, not necessarily that of the club or the Newsletter. It's certainly thought provoking and there may well be members who agree or disagree strongly with it. If so, I would be more than happy to publish any Letters to the Editor in the next edition. Don't forget that, as Bruce points out, BBC will be in St Austell in April wanting to hear your opinion.

As you can see from the front cover, the editor has been made aware that a club member of long standing has been pictured in a state of undress in a magazine for those with "specialist interests". If anyone is in possession of photos of other members in a similar state, please keep them to yourselves. Many thanks.

Editorial

If ever proof was needed that one man's meat is another man's poison (apologies to women, vegetarians, vegans, poisoners etc.) the weather in February has provided it in grand style. While the white water paddlers have been hurtling down rivers with hardly any interruption, the Saturday paddlers have hardly left the shore. That said, Spring is just around the corner. Terry has advertised the Easter Paddle and Marty has produced the programme for Tuesday nights so let's hope for some weather that everyone can enjoy.

The most significant effect of the bad weather has been a severe shortage of photos for the front cover. As a result, I've had to recycle some old ones. You can tell which they are because the sun is shining.

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. 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

Acknowledgements

The cover photographers for August are, as ever - Joy, Debbie and Terry

Introduction to Sea Kayaking by Terry Calcott

Over the past few years I have organised some Introduction to Sea Kayaking sessions for the club. I am looking at running another series of sessions to run sometime in March / April. They will probably be on a Saturday but days and dates can be flexible once I know numbers. If you have wanted to try sea kayaks out but never had the opportunity now is your chance. The sessions are aimed at those club members who already have some paddling skills but are novice sea kayakers. The sessions are also suitable for club members who have been in sea kayaks but want to brush up on the basics skills. Due to limited time the sessions are about transferring the paddling skills you already have and using them in sea kayaks. We will cover some theory and a lot of practical aspects of sea paddling, culminating with a sea paddle somewhere in the sound.

If you are interested please contact me so I can see if the interest is there to organise some sessions.

Club sea kayaks are available for use or bring along your own if you have one, if you would like to book a place and a boat or have any questions please let me know by email terryc1@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07828 652775.



Easter Paddle, Saturday 11th April, 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, (0915 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)



British Canoeing Strategy 2021-5, A Personal View by Bruce Burton

Many of you may have seen the Consultation Document on this subject that Adam circulated a few weeks ago and perhaps made your comments to BC directly. The consultation period is now closed, so this article is a little late. If you have already read the Consultation Document then you probably don't want to plough through this article. In which case, goodbye and thanks for at least getting this far. For those of a stronger disposition, or perhaps need to get out more often, here are the main provisions in this document, with my own personal comments. Please note that these are my own views and you may agree or disagree with them. So here goes.

This strategic plan proposal is an extension of the previous BC 2017-2021 plan, called 'Stronger Together' and consists of 10 (actually 11 as there are two 10's) parts.

1. **Membership.** There are three levels of membership. Full on the water, On the Bank and Associate Membership. We get Associate Membership through PPCA. This gives us liability insurance, but only for Club activities. Peer paddles are not covered, for example. If you want liability insurance for non-club activities, you have to be a 'Full on the Water' member. This also gives a waterways licence for 4500 km of waterways and various discounts on BC performance awards and some other stuff. For an adult this will cost you £45 per year. If all you are interested in is liability insurance, there are cheaper options outside BC.
2. **Club Associate Member Data.** From October 2020 BC is requiring details of all Club Associate Members including (note this worrying word) first name, last name, date of birth, gender, email address and postcode. They do not say why they require this. I don't know what information they get on individual members already, but this seems to me to potentially involve PPCA in more work in order to pass on this information, as well as passing on personal data to an organization with which we have no direct involvement. So I personally feel this is too much and should not be required.
3. **Definition of Club Activities.** This relates to whether you are or are not covered by the BC public liability (or waterways licence). Amongst other things, club activities have to have had 'due diligence/risk assessment carried out by the relevant and accountable club representative'. A slightly worrying aspect of this is that, should (heaven forbid) a public liability issue arise, the club might have to be able to demonstrate that this had been carried out in order to be covered by the insurance. Peer paddles, independent paddles and competitive paddling are specifically excluded and are not therefore covered by insurance unless you are a Full member of have alternative arrangements.
4. **Club fees.** New fees are being introduced from October 2020 depending on the number of Associate Members. I don't know what we pay now, so have no comment on this.
5. **Fee rises.** Can take place each July.
6. **Club Affiliation Documents.** From October 2020 clubs will have to publish the following on their website: Constitution; risk assessment for normal club activities; standard operating procedures; Health and Safety policy; Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Although not explicit, BC say they will be providing template documents for these, so it seems that we would have to conform to criteria that BC determine. This again seems to me to be somewhat over the top.
7. **Youth card and day event tickets.** If you want to participate in any of these you will have to pay BC £5.
8. **Club Quality Mark.** This is being done away with and there will now be a Quality Paddle Club. BC will tell us what we have to do and we can then be assessed through a self- evaluation form and club action plan. If we are really good, we can move up to Champion Club status for which we would have to nominate 'Club Champions'. I guess this will depend on what hoops we would have to jump through to get this Quality Paddle Club status.

9. **Coaching, Leadership and Instructor qualifications.** This is the section that is causing most consternation. Up to now BC have accepted that some people can lead and coach paddling on the basis of an assessment of their competence made by their clubs. This BC wish to change this so that all coaches, leaders and instructors will be required to hold BC qualifications including all necessary updates. This takes away the right of an individual club, such as ours, to judge who is and is not suitable to lead paddles or other activities and puts a burden of time and money on anyone who wants to lead paddles to obtain the requisite qualifications. Not everyone who leads our paddles and who we consider to be competent to do so, may wish to spend the time and money to get these BC qualifications. Potentially it seems that this could limit the number of recreational paddles and training sessions that the club can offer. It would also restrict the use of our club equipment as this can only be used for club activities. This would be a huge shame.

10. **County/Regional Workshops.** These will be held starting July this year to support specialized areas

11. **Hotline.** There will be a hotline for club representatives to contact BC.

Overall

I am an old fart who enjoys being out on the water and sharing that enjoyment with like-minded individuals. I am eternally grateful to PPCA for giving me that opportunity and also in providing training that gives me the chance to improve my skills, or at least make the attempt. I want to be able to go on doing this as long as I am able. I think the role of BC should be to encourage people to participate in our sport at whatever level they wish, from splashing about on a calm day, to bouncing down an icy river in the middle of winter. They should provide the training tools that enable people to do this. Some will have the time and inclination to take this as far as they can go, and good luck to them, seriously. I do not think that BC should be trying to impose a one size fits all to their affiliated clubs. They should recognize that many clubs, ours certainly, has a wealth of experience in providing safe and enjoyable paddles in our locality and do not need to be micromanaged to do this.

Unfortunately the date for comments on this consultation document expired on March 6th. I did respond in time on the lines of this article. BC are conducting some regional meetings (nasty virus permitting) to discuss this. Our nearest is at 7.30pm (refreshments from 7) on Wednesday 15 April at St Austell Arts Centre, 87 Truro Road, St Austell PL25 5HJ

If you have got to the end of this, well done. If you have strong feelings about these proposals from BC and how they might impact us, then attending the St Austell meeting might be an opportunity to express these. If I have got this all around my ears, then feel free to tell me (nicely, please) next time you see me.

The poster features a photograph of a canal filled with people in colorful kayaks and canoes. The British Canoeing logo is in the top right corner.

**British Canoeing
Roadshow
2020**

Come and have your say on the new strategic plan for paddle sport.

British Canoeing will be visiting:

Wednesday 15 April
St Austell Arts Centre, 87 Truro Rd
Saint Austell, PL25 5HJ

- Hear about the progress made towards the ambitions within **Stronger Together**
- Comment on what should be included in the next strategic plan for **2021-25**
- Meet British Canoeing CEO David Joy, senior staff and Board Members

7.30pm start, with refreshments served from 7pm.

All members welcome

[**Sign up here to register your attendance**](#)



29TH - 31ST MAY 2020

at: Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, Cornwall, PL10 1HZ

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

It's about meeting up and enjoying the great outdoors camping, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, canoeing plus lots more all whilst having fun and raising money for charity!

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!

We have special offers for early bird tickets & group booking

Please visit: **www.southwestpaddlefest.com**
for tickets and further information. **LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE**



VETERANS' FOUNDATION

Money raised will go to the Veteran's Foundation
www.veteransfoundation.org.uk
Charity Number: 1166953



*Pre-booked ticket required

Kayaking* Canoeing*
SUPing*

'Have a Go' Sessions*

Skills Workshop* Guided Trips*

Expert Coaching*

Guest Speakers*

Weekend On-Site Camping*

Luxury Showers* & On site toilets

Licensed Bar

Stalls and Refreshments

Live Music & Resident DJ

Kids Disco's*

Climbing Tower

Bushcraft & Beach Fire

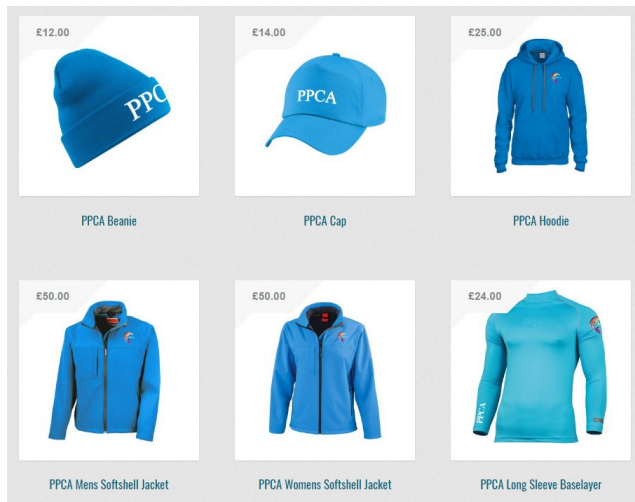
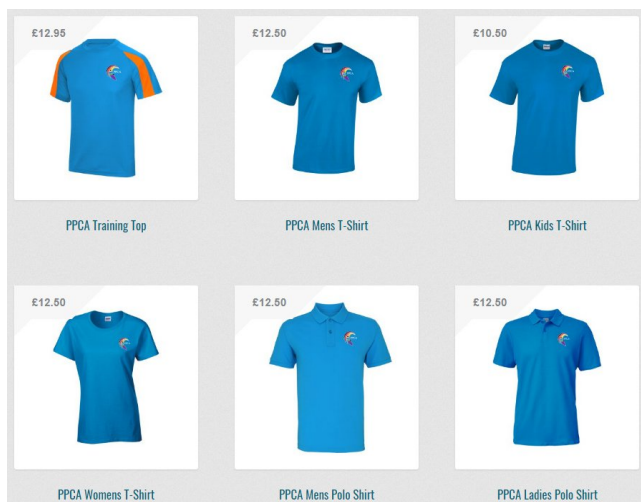
IT'S MORE THAN A FESTIVAL. IT'S AN ADVENTURE!

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.



Raise free donations for us every time you shop online with easyfundraising!



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ppca/>

Club Calendar

Please bear in mind that, while the calendar is correct at the time of going to press things can, and often do, change at the last minute, particularly in the white water season. Please double-check with the online calendar before putting on your dry suit.

For the Diary

7th August 2020: Isles of Scilly

Recreational Paddles (Saturdays)

7th March - Gavin Bennett (Sea Paddle)

14th March - Terry Calcott

21st March - Bob Grose

28th March - Brim

4th April - Joy Ashford (Sea Paddle)

11th April - Andy Kittle

18th April - Brim

25th April - Terry Calcott

White Water (Sundays)

1st March Chris Doidge

8th March - Phil Cleave

15th March - Ken Hamblin

22nd March - Doug Sitch

29th March - Clive Ashford

Open Canoe White Water

8th March - Brim

Pool Sessions

6th March

3rd April

Tuesday Evenings

7th April

Explore - Buck

Sea - Brim

Recreational - Al

14th April

Explore - Buck

Sea - Brim

Recreational - Al

21st April

Explore - Buck

Sea - Brim

Recreational - Al

28th April

Explore - Buck

Sea - Brim

Recreational - Al

Open Boat and SUP sessions will be organised on an ad-hoc basis

Open Boats - Friday Evenings

10th April - Sam

17th April - Joy

24th April - Marty

Courses

4th April - Intro - Jane

The Committee

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