



PPCA Newsletter December 2020

Introduction

Welcome to December's Newsletter. This month Ken brings us up to date with club activities and the AGM and AI updates us on welfare.

Editorial

Christmas is the traditional time for me to thank everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter over the preceding year and this is no exception - thank you all for the time and effort you have put into writing the pieces, particularly given the circumstances this year. Hopefully the Newsletter has provided a few brief seconds of pleasure in an otherwise depressing year.

It is indeed sad news that John Dow has moved away. In addition to being out on the water I have fond memories of doing a couple of Mountbatten Open Days with him where he was always more than happy to regale any passer-by who came within earshot with tales of the joys of paddling in general and the PPCA in particular. Some of the hardier types survived this introduction and went on to become club members. Good luck for the future, John.

Happy Christmas

Ivor Jones

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 photographs are some ghosts of Christmas past dredged from the bowels of Facebook, taken by Bruce, Joy and Terry

Chair's Final Update for 2020 by Ken Hamblin

Club Paddles Restarting

Firstly, I hope you are all still fit and well after this last period of lockdown and that you are not too disappointed with the government decision to put us into Tier 2 on the Covid restrictions. Unfortunately for us this means that our club paddling is still restricted to the 6 in group activities outdoors so as from next Wednesday 2nd December we can restart the club paddles. Please keep your eye on the Forum page of the Club website for all the trips Sea and River paddles that will be advertised on there. You can then book a place if you would like to attend the final decision of course will be the responsibility of the Coach / Leader on the day. If you are having a problem with the Forum, please contact Ian Brimacombe who will hopefully be able to help you out

AGM

Hopefully, you are all aware that because of the Covid restrictions we had to conduct this year's AGM on line which without any real surprise has ended up with last years committee being unanimously voted in to serve you for another year. I say unanimously voted in when I really meant that we did not hear from any members except a couple of kind thank you emails for the committees work over the past year. So, without any objections or challenges for any of the positions we have assumed that you are quite content for us to continue.

I have already said this but come the AGM in 2021 several of the current committee members, some of whom have been on for 4/5 years or more WILL be standing down which means that these positions will be vacant looking for volunteers to keep the PPCA Club running. During these next 12 months if you are considering volunteering for any of these positions it might pay you to let us know and maybe shadow the current member during this time to find out what this entails. Remember if you want a club it cannot survive without a committee!!

Having said all this, we are still looking for a Club Leader. This would hopefully be somebody with some coaching / leadership experience who can organise and arrange all the club paddling programmes for the forthcoming summer season if or when we get back to normality. This requirement is not imperative if we have a willing volunteer.

My apologies for the delay in publishing the Audited accounts for this past year for which I would like on your behalf to thank Sharne Dodds our treasurer and the two auditors Adam Coulson and Steve Pryor for all the hard work and time put in by them. The accounts are attached and have been approved by the committee but if any of you would like to raise any points on this please send your enquiry to our secretary Jackie Perry and we will try to answer them as quickly as possible.

Sad Farewell

Unfortunately, due to family reasons we have had to say farewell to one of our more mature members of the club, John Dow who has now moved up to the lovely county of Wiltshire away from salty waters. While speaking to some of our old Club Leaders who had plenty of experience with John on the many club functions that he supported I received a few anecdotes from them, remembering some of the times he has spent with us over the last 20 odd years.

Terry Calcott

"I first met John in 2002 when he moved to Plymouth from Shoreham where he was an active coach in the local kayak club there. Once settled in Plymouth he joined the PPCA in 2002 and remained a qualified coach here for several years. John was always happy to let other coaches take the lead and enjoyed acting as the assistant. Once his coaching qualifications lapsed, he continued as an official club helper. I do not know anyone in the club who has helped on the club's Introductory courses as much as him. Every year come rain or shine he would be down at Mount Batten helping out on several courses each year. John had his own style of teaching newcomers and he certainly left an impression on everyone he coached. John was also a keen supporter of any club activities be they social or on the water. But foremost he was an absolute gentleman when out on a paddle. He was always first helping paddlers getting in and out of their boats. John was also particularly good at spinning a yarn (being ex-navy and fire service)

or debating newsworthy items when out on the water paddling.

He will be missed by a lot of the club paddlers who have got to know him and become friends."

Clive Ashford

"John Dow would be quick to agree that he wasn't the greatest paddler, but he was always enthusiastic and made time to pass on advice to anyone that he felt would benefit from such a thing. He particularly liked helping on beginners' courses where he would take great delight in regaling our novices, particularly our lady novices, with stories.

For some time, John led the occasional Saturday paddle. I'm not sure what his qualifications were but he was always aware that his remit was very limited, so much so that most of his paddles were a variation on the theme of the Plym Estuary. John's paddles would often have lunch on a beach at the entrance to Pomphlett Creek which became rather affectionately known as John's Beach.

The photo (taken by Joy) shows John landing through small surf, probably at Wembury."



Ian Brimacombe

"John was a coach when he first came to the PPCA and the club asked if he would help with the club actives, which he did, and helped on loads of the club courses.

I think he also enjoyed helping with many of the breakwater swims, helping the swimmers to keep in a straight line towards the Hoe in different sea conditions.

John was a regular Saturday paddler enjoying the different areas and conditions and was always a happy paddler and had plenty of chat.

With the introductory session, John was always happy to help and was the first person to help any ladies with their paddling. He was also very keen to help with the scouts and cubs groups, which I was very grateful for.

I'm sure with John moving away from Plymouth many members of the club will miss him."

I received this reply from John just recently regarding an email I sent to him which I thought might interest the many friends he had in the club

"Just got an email from Terry Calcott which caused a "light bulb moment" - had I responded to Ken's email????? I looked it up and realized why I had not - it came in at 2020 on the evening of the day (Wednesday) we did the move out from our bungalow in Plymouth. Its arrival coincided with us falling into bed in the Premier Inn opposite Sainsbury's. We could have slept on the floor in the bungalow for a couple of nights (the furniture wasn't arriving in Devizes until lunchtime on the Friday) but not at our ages! It was indeed a sudden move which, after many weeks of nervous waiting and getting to expect another failed sale, the exchange of contracts to completion (i.e. the actual move) happened in a 7 day whirlwind. Our intention to have the movers do our packing went out of the window and we re-learned what hard physical work was doing it ourselves over the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Having closed up the bungalow at about 6pm we drove over to the Premier Inn at Coypool in the monsoon rain that hit Plymouth that evening and, having found that we couldn't get an evening meal anywhere in that area we drove back to Hooe to a fish n chipper we knew was open there and back to the hotel for a fish and chip supper in the room before zonking out. We are finally able to move freely about our new house (another bungalow) having emptied nearly all the packing boxes (how does anybody manage without a garage?) and can now stay awake until after nine. This moving game is a young man's game. And the paperwork/legislation involved compared with when we last moved!

So, apologies for the memory slip and thank you for your kind words. I was fortunate to have the PPCA on my doorstep and such an interesting area to paddle in with a wide variety of friendly club members. Although I was no whiz paddler myself it was gratifying to see a number of folk I helped as novices going on to be competent "headbangers". If I had a talent it was the ability to get adult novices over the initial hurdle of flailing hopelessly

about (like me, starting at 45 it can be a bit depressing seeing the youngsters progress quickly while you find it difficult) and making them believe that they had the ability to "get there" with practice.

Anyway, I hope that Boris's enforced lay-off and restrictions on the club don't have long term adverse effects on the club and hope it resurfaces vigorously, providing the same invaluable opportunities for the existing and many new members.

Regards to all"

John

Well after all that I am sure you will join me in thanking John for all the support effort and time he has given to the club during the time he was in Plymouth and wish him and his wife every success and happiness for the future.

Finally on behalf of the committee can I wish you all a very Happy Christmas in whatever form we are being allowed and that 2021 will be a massive improvement on this year with plenty of enjoyable and interesting paddles to look forward as well as getting back to a normal life?

Ken

From Your Club Welfare Officer by Alan Ede

British Canoeing have updated their Safeguarding training policy this year. In a nutshell all coaches, helpers and leaders have to complete an initial safeguarding training course, whether you coach children/young people regularly or not and then re-qualify by doing refresher training every 3 years. This is mandatory to keep your qualifications current.

Many of our coaches and leaders will have completed an initial course, some a long time ago. If you did this training then you can do the online safeguarding refresher training to update your credentials for another 3 years.

I will be contacting people whose records that I hold, (indicating that they have completed an initial safeguarding course), individually to inform them how to complete the refresher training.

There are some people who I don't have records for so I will make enquiries at BC to see if and when you completed safeguarding training. If you have completed safeguarding training with another organisation ie Scouts or workplace and have a certificate, then ensure you have updated BC with this information.

Now the good news! The online refresher course costs £10 but once you have done it the club will reimburse you.

Please wait for an email from me to confirm your current safeguarding status and what training you will need to do. This message is a heads up for now but in the meantime if you have any questions then please contact me on the following email, welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

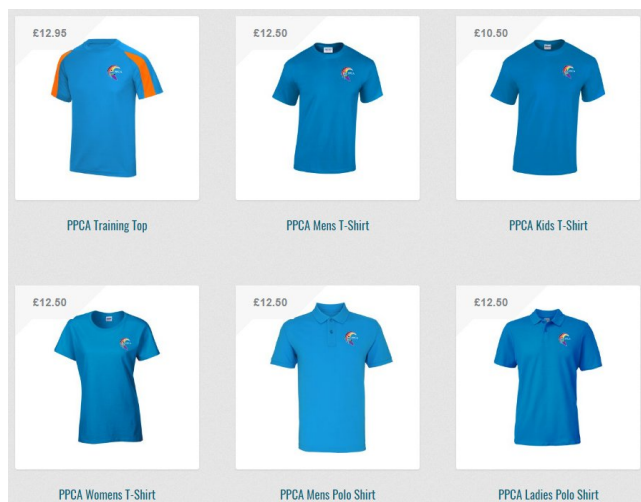
Keep safe, paddle safe and have a good Christmas.

Exchange and Mart

PPCA Club Clothing by Jackie Perry, Publicity Officer

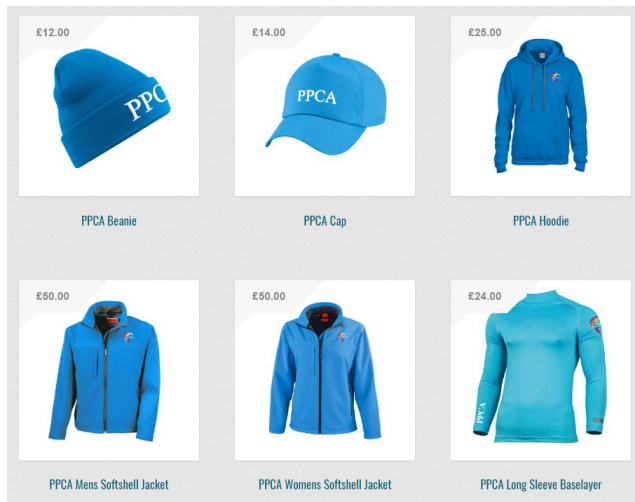
A full range of customised kit in either blue or black is available to order direct from Tailored Branding via the link below

<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/>

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