



PPCA Newsletter

June 2017



Introduction

Welcome to June's Newsletter. The season is obviously progressing as there's news of a three star assessment with Clive. Elsewhere, Terry has news of changes at the top, Jon reports on beginners and Dave has a brush with the Great Kayaker (and offers some sobering reflections).

Editorial

Neighbours can be a bit of a pain – all night parties, unpleasant children, wet kayaking gear all over the place ruining the view out of the bedroom window – but having paddled today with members of Tamar and Axe Vale clubs, it turns out that some neighbours can be quite pleasant. No offence to anyone in the club but it's nice to paddle with different people every now and again. At the end of the paddle, one of the Tamar coaches suggested that we might like to do some more collaborative paddles in the future. This struck all of us as a pretty good idea. Maybe it's time to meet the neighbours.

Ivor Jones

Newsletter Editor

The Committee

Committee Post	Name	Club Email	Phone Number
Club Secretary	Bob Grose	ppca@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01803 849163
Club Leader	Ian Brimacombe	leader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07720 957304
Welfare Officer	Jane Seigne	welfare@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07891 177768
Intro Course Coordinator	Jon Seddon	intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07981 560879
Chair		chair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	
Vice Chair	Terry Calcott	vchair@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07828 652775
Assistant Club Leader		acleader@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	
Membership Secretary	Adam Coulson	membership@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07834 286461
Treasurer	Jenny Nicholls	treasurer@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	01752 952628
Equipment Officer	Pete Anderson	equipment@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07958 694434
Publicity Officer	George Hamblin	publicity@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07805 085499
Youth Development Officer	John Mitchell	youth@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk	07791 090956
Club President	Joy Ashford		

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be on 19th July 2017. If you have any points you wish to raise, please contact Bob Grose secretary@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Taster and 1* Courses by Jon Seddon

So far this year we have had 15 participants on the Go Canoeing taster sessions, 21 on the 1* Introductory courses and 7 children on the multi-week paddle power courses. We've had lots of great thank you messages from the participants saying how much they enjoyed the courses. There has also been a good number of people who have progressed from the taster sessions to their 1*. Hopefully these will continue on to becoming full club members and regular paddlers. The numbers for the 1* are up on last year but the tasters are slightly down. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous dedication of the coaches and so I would like to say a huge thank you to them.

We still need coaches to volunteer for the remaining courses and so please get in touch with Brim if you can help out.

There are also plenty of spaces left on the remaining courses and so if you know of anyone who might be interested then please get them to look at <http://ppca-canoe-club.org.uk/join/join.htm> or contact Jon Seddon intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk 07981 560879.

Committee Changes by Terry Calcott

After many years of outstanding and valuable service on the club committee the 'Chair' Tracy Jones has decided to stand down from the post. This means an exciting opportunity has arisen and the post of 'Chair' is now vacant. If you would like to serve on your club committee as the 'Chair' and give something back into this fantastic association please contact the Club Secretary or any committee member for details about the post. The club cannot function properly without a full committee and the 'Chair' is one of the key posts.

I am sure you will all wish to join me in thanking Tracy for all of her hard work on our behalf over the years. Always with a smile, she has carried out the role of 'Chair' in a calm, efficient and positive manner.

Again, after many years of being a committee member in various posts Andy Nichols has taken the decision to stand down as 'Club Leader'.

A short post on the forum cannot do justice to Andy's contribution to the club as Club Leader over the years he has been in the post. But exceptional and unstinting come to mind. Andy has given an immense amount of time and energy in planning and running the club programme and the multitude of other jobs that come along with the role. He has without doubt gone way above and beyond what is required.

All our coaches and committee members are unpaid volunteers giving freely of their time and energy. The post of Club Leader is probably the most onerous in the club, juggling the club programme can be a thankless task but Andy has always come through and the sessions have run. His commitment has been immeasurable in the amount of personal time and energy he has given.

I know everyone in the club would like to thank Andy and wish him all the best for the future and enjoy some well-earned rest from the running of the club. Although he won't be cutting ties completely with the running of the club, he will be keeping the club website running for us and using his expertise in that area. Please pass on your own thanks to Andy if you see him on or off the water.

In the short term and to allow some continuity up until the club AGM later in the year the Deputy Club Leader Ian Brim has agreed to take over the post of Club Leader. (Thank you Brim).

The PPCA Committee by Tracy Jones

After a lot of soul searching, I have decided to stand down from the committee. More responsibility at work and being short staffed means that I just don't have enough hours in the day or enough energy at the moment to commit 100% to the committee.

This year seems to be speeding away and before we know it, it will be the AGM. If you have never considered it before, please think about volunteering to join the committee at this important club meeting.

I have been a committee member for almost 5 years, 2 as membership secretary, 1 as Introductory Course Coordinator and almost 2 as chair. I can honestly say that I have really enjoyed each post. I have met members who I would never have met out on the water due to paddling at different club sessions and I have made some great friends. I have learnt new skills and battled my natural shyness by having to talk to people, which is generally outside my comfort zone. Most importantly, hopefully, I contributed something to the club.

If you have any questions about joining the committee, speak to any committee member, current or past. The time commitment can be minimal, depending on which role you take on, but the satisfaction from helping our amazing club is immense.

The PPCA needs you!

3 Star Sea Kayak Assessment Saturday 29th July by Clive Ashford

I am running a 3 star sea kayak assessment on Saturday 29 July.

Our governing body, British Canoeing, has of course taken something fairly simple and made it incredibly complicated, thus you may like to look at these 3 documents.

Syllabus: [here](#)

Training notes: [here](#)

Assessors' Notes: [here](#)

I will run the assessment using the assessors notes.

Although this award calls itself 3 star sea kayak you can take it in any suitable kayak. Your general purpose kayak will be fine.

If you wish to attend this assessment please let me know.

Clive A.

Tel: 01752 344425

Mob: 07854 648584

E-mail: cliveandjoy01@gmail.com

Every so often the Great Kayaker taps you on the shoulder. If you're lucky, he looks a bit like Clive, waving an admonitory finger, and laughing at the joke he's just played on you. If you're not – well that way, at best, lies the Coastguard, the RNLI, and lots of unwelcome publicity.



The five of us had had a stirring first half to the day: sheltered rock hopping along the coast, a more testing reach out to Looe Island across wind and swell, and then more sheltered rock hopping along the east coast. We'd rounded the SE corner to find a glorious manageable maelstrom, kicked up by swell, tide and wind working in concert on the southerly reefs of the island. We'd worked our way through the reef channels – trying not to chase the seals - tiptoed circumspectly across a very lumpy Little Island Bay, and then set our course up the west side of the island, enjoying the bigger swells and stronger cross winds as we headed for lunch on the mainland.

We'd been under heavyish grey cloud most of the time, but Duck Bay, sheltered from the wind by Talland Head, was bathed in sunlight. A glorious oasis of calm, with sea grasses and thrift crowding down to the sandy beach, the backdrop of trees completing a sense of rest well earned.

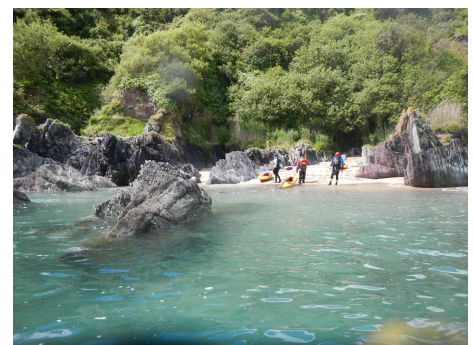
Perhaps too much so. For when we launched after lunch there was a mild difference of opinion on what to do next. Three of us (two "semi- invalids" and our minder) were for the straight route back to Millendreath; the other two were all for having another bite at the rocks and swells to the South of the Island. And so we split up, ending Act 1 of our very own three door farce.



The channel between mainland and Island was well invigorating in its own right. I was paddle sailing – well sailing and paddle steering – full down swell, trying to avoid too many gibes and broaching to, as another set of squalls came through. Not having quite got the hang of breathing while the sailing was so exciting, I was keen to run into the shelter of the Banjo Pier to wait till the other two joined us after going round the island; and so we hung about – keeping an eye to seaward for incoming kayaks. Zilch. The farce was running true to form at the end of Act 2!

In the end we dispatched Gavin and his arm to Millendreath, while Jane and I sail/paddled out to the Island, then along the east coast, until we reached the corner. We'd been sure we'd meet Smeg and EMU before we got there – discounting the way the overcast played Old Harry with the visibility. In the meantime Smeg and Mike were hauling out at Millendreath to end Act 3.

Jane & I turned the corner of the island to discover that the swells had increased significantly since the morning. The channel through the reefs was deceptively easier, but as we came out of the channel I realised that worrying about our missing friends was the least of my troubles. Distracted by searching the shore for them, we were in the seas immediately beyond the reef before we knew it, and they were horrendous. Steep, breaking at random and without warning, reflecting off each



other and creating four foot high clapotis¹, they were no place to be in a kayak; and Little Island Bay was even worse. Trying to turn back into the channel was impossible. The only thing to do was to paddle and brace a way through, trying to meet all the seas head on. The thought of running back along the same track was unthinkable. We could only hope that Mark & Smeg had felt the same.



A safe distance west of the island, we paused and drew breath. Time to concentrate on ourselves. We turned further out to sea to give the reefs a good offing - which was exactly what Mark and Mike had done - and surfed down the giant swells on our way back to the “corner”. End of Act 4.

As soon as we got to the SE corner and could see Millendreath sea wall shining out like a beacon directly down wind and swell, we knew what Mark & Smeg had done. They’d sensibly, and no doubt very enjoyably, headed straight for the home beach, rather than back tracking to the Banjo Pier. Probably expecting to link up with us along the way. We followed the same track. And there they, and Gavin, were; on the end of Millendreath pier waiting for Jane and their car keys! Mind you, while they waited their minds had been running scenarios about Gavin’s arm breaking down, Jane’s boat failing its first major test, or me having another funny turn. Final Curtain.

Well not quite. We did a review down on the pier. Splitting up had been a reasonable choice. We were under peer paddle rules, and none of us accept that solo and duo paddling is automatically a “bad thing”. On the other hand, the fact that we did not agree a definite rendezvous point had set the whole farce in motion. Finishing up with the two radios we had between us paddling side by side, twice, verged on the comically unbelievable. More sobering was the realisation that, concentrating on looking for our friends, Jane and I had inadvertently placed ourselves in a danger more serious than any they had faced. A capsize so close into the reef, in that sea, would have been irrecoverable and, however large the group, unrescuable.



Of course, making the spontaneous carefree decision to split up on that balmy, sheltered, sun-kissed beach – discounting the next set of squalls we could see lining up beyond Talland Head – almost guaranteed that there’d be a sting in the tail, somewhere. In the end the fine line between farce and tragedy had rested on the favourable breaking of some waves.

This time, as we carried the boats off the beach, we could joke with each other, congratulate Jane on the stirring and testing nature of her new tripartite boat’s maiden voyage, talking perhaps a little louder than normal; able to laugh at the farce in which the Great Kayaker had involved us. Next time we might not. And that’s no bad thing to remember.

1 No, nor me, I had to look it up, just in case – Ed. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clapotis>
June 2017



The commemorative paddle for Ian Ruse was held on 25th June. Inevitably, a number of people who would have liked to have come were unable to make it but there was a good turn out of about 20 boats with past and present members of the PPCA, friends of Ian and members of the Tamar and Axe Vale clubs coming along. Even the ferry made an appearance (coming in more quickly than expected).



There was “enough wind to make it interesting” as the saying goes and certainly enough to make me glad I was paddling tandem. Ian's daughter Rachel sent us on our way and we got as far as Bovisand against the wind coming back to Jennycliff for lunch – a stop that featured at least four Kelly kettles and plenty of jelly babies. The final stretch, from Mountbatten breakwater back to the club was done entirely on wind power with no need for paddling.

I'm reliably informed that we saw a gannet dive down and catch a fish and a pair of peregrine falcons teaching their chick to catch prey in the air.

It was good to see so many open boats on the water but also good that all types of craft were welcome. A tandem sea boat proved impossible to keep up with but the crew did have youth on their side.

A collection was held for the Marine Conservation Society which raised £70.

Below are a few photos from the day with thanks to everyone who came, especially those who travelled from far flung places.







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

I'm afraid this will be unavailable for a while - could everyone please check the [website](#) for updates?