



Eddylines



Port of Plymouth Canoeing Association

Newsletter 01 November 2014

Welcome

Last week it dawned on me that I had volunteered and committed myself to producing a monthly newsletter for the club. The past month has been a bit of a blur for me with my daughter getting married. I have heard of deadlines but this is not what I anticipated when I uttered those words to Clive 'I will do it'. But here it is, I do apologise for it being rushed but it is a project that will grow and develop over time. You will notice some changes to the content with a few new articles. I am a great fan of photographs speaking a thousand words so don't be surprised if some months they form the bulk of the newsletter. Although this month it has turned into a bit of the Terry and Clive show with much of the content about or from them.

The end of an era - Wet News



Clive circa 2006

Clive Ashford produced and edited the Wet News for 8 years. Wet News 001 hit the streets in November 2006 and 8 years later Clive has finally hung up his John Bull printing press. That is quite some achievement producing such a quality newsletter for such a long time. I know Clive has enjoyed his time as editor and Wet News will be missed. As the unofficial club historian I have all the copies of Wet News and all the earlier club newsletters going back quite a few years. The world has changed a lot since 2006 but one thing you could always rely on was that copy of Wet News pinging into your inbox at the start of each month. Many thanks Clive enjoy your retirement and even more free time now.

Newsletter survey

Thank you to the 40 club members that took the time out to reply to the survey about the club newsletter. The replies were interesting with lots of suggestions for new names (see below) and some good ideas for improving the newsletter. The majority of replies said they were happy with the monthly format and that the diary page was very useful. Some of the newer members suggested having a pen picture each month of the key club members (committee and coaches); this would help identify who was leading a session etc. This is something I have tried over the years with limited success. If you wish to send me a pen picture of yourself for publication in the newsletter please do. A photo and a couple of lines about yourself would be great.

What's in a name?

You may have noticed the newsletter title has changed (or maybe not). Your new editor has gone for the name 'Eddylines'. I liked it and it can relate to all aspects of our sport. The eddy that safe haven on the river and sea, when all around is fast flowing and dynamic. A bit like the newsletter, that oasis of peace and quiet when life around is hectic.

Some of the suggestions from the survey for a new name were *club news, crest of a wave, new wave, give us a wave, paddles up, catch a wave, spit splash, splosh, dry and warm news, the eddyline, eddylines, standing wave, the canoodler, sea breeze, wave, splash, blades, participate play canoe action, up the creek, floaters, tidal times.*

Over the years the club newsletter has actually had very few names. My research has found the following: Sound Bight (newsletter), Sounding (club magazine), Club Newsheet, Club Newsletter, Wet News.

The AGM 13th October

The annual club AGM took place at the Mount Batten centre earlier last month. 43 club members turned up to elect the new committee and listen to the various club officers giving reports about how the club has done this year. A change to the club constitution to allow Trustees to be nominated was also debated and voted on. There was also the presentation of the club awards to the following well deserving members:

Alan Mumford - Enthusiastic Paddler
Vicky Hoskin - Achievement
Ian Ruse - Services to the Club
Damean Miller - The Endeavour Cup
Clive Ashford - Leadership
Linda and Brim - Inspiration
Andy Nicholls - Outstanding Contribution

A new committee was eventually voted in (names and contact details in the newsletter). Please give them your full support. They should be your first point of contact if you have any concerns or ideas about the club. The minutes from the AGM will be available to read shortly. The committee members who were standing down this year were presented with a very generous liquid gift kindly donated by club member Steve Biggs.

Pen picture - Terry Calcott (Editor)



My paddling experience started relatively late in life in 2001. My daughter suggested that 'we' do a PPCA 1* course. The course was led by Clive Ashford. It was Clive's enthusiasm and passion for kayaking that convinced me that maybe this was the sport for me. I joined the club, and since then things have become a bit of a blur. Somehow I progressed through the BCU star training of 2, 3 & 4 (old scheme) and even managed to become a coach. I joined the committee a few years after joining the club having decided that I wanted to give some of my time back into the club that had supported me over the years. After standing down from the committee I became club President. I try to paddle at least once a week throughout the year, more in the summer if I can get away with it. Usually out on the sea somewhere. I particularly enjoy coaching and leading trips.

I did consider naming this section the '*rogue's gallery*' but after reading the dictionary definition '*a group of unsavoury characters*' I thought maybe not!

Photo capers



Photo supplied by Bob Frost

Blast from the Past

This will be a regular feature over the coming months to whet your appetite and give you little snippets of your club's past. I have been compiling a lot of information about the club from various sources with the ultimate aim of producing a comprehensive club history. It is still very much a work in progress with some gaps from the early years to fill in. The photo below is supplied by Ian Ruse, it shows a race organised by the PPCA in 1976, in the background is Coxsidge and the area of Queen Anne's Battery, long before the marina was built with just the natural shoreline.



Photo supplied by Ian Ruse - PPCA race 8th July 1976

Standing in for Terry (Article by Clive Ashford)

Terry sent an e-mail around to the club's sea coaches asking if anyone could cover for his Saturday paddle on 18 October, and being such a marvellous sort of chap I volunteered. Having experienced one of the best summers for years I was expecting a gentle little bob around a glassy calm Plymouth Sound, so I got a bit of a shock when I looked at the forecast to discover a predicted force 4 – 5 SSW wind gusting to force 7. I put a post on the forum advising that we would definitely paddle somewhere but that this trip probably wasn't for inexperienced paddlers.

Driving down to Mount Batten on the Saturday morning I thought it might be a good idea to survey the conditions in the Sound. I stopped in a car park overlooking the sea and listened to the wind whistling through the straps holding my boat onto the roof rack. Although it was only an hour after low tide the breakwater was already marked by a line of foam and spray and there were waves crawling up the harbour walls at both Picklecombe and Bovisand. I could see plenty of places I didn't want to paddle but as yet nowhere that I did. I drove on down to the club and noticed that conditions along the Hoe weren't too bad and the further west I looked the calmer things were. A plan was beginning to hatch.

There were 10 poor lost souls, notably all chaps, who turned up thinking that a possible one way trip to Davy Jones Locker was a better option than whatever else was on offer on this wild Saturday morning. I outlined my plan and asked if everyone was happy. Near silence was the response but as I looked around I saw whites of teeth rather than whites of eyes, so I took that as a yes.

The previous night had seen heavy and persistent rain meaning that both the Plym and the Tamar rivers were discharging a high level of sediment into the Sound. Our motley crew, no sorry that should read; our band of intrepid heroes launched into murky brown water under leaden skies, not exactly picture postcard conditions but we are the PPCA and we were getting out on the water. That's what we do.

Having paddled past the water taxi pontoon I told people that we would cross over to the Hoe and re-group in the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club harbour. Oddly enough there was very little traffic in the Sound but conditions were in fact relatively benign. Surprisingly the entrance to the harbour was a bit bouncy with waves reflecting off both sides of the entrance but our intrepid heroes coped with admirable ease and we all re-grouped without mishap.

Having once again checked the teeth to eyes ratio, and having once again reminded myself that we were indeed intrepid heroes, we set off in a general westerly direction. We passed groups of hardy swimmers who were gracing the sea at both Tinside and Devils Point and I idly noted that we weren't the only group of people whose sanity could be the subject of some speculation.



Photo supplied by Bob Frost

Someone, and I 'm not going to mention any names, observed that group control was so much easier with no female paddlers present. Whilst it was true that we were paddling in a fairly tight group I think this was probably due to the small numbers rather than the absence of any of our prettier paddling friends, but I have been known to be wrong and I wouldn't like to miss the opportunity of making a barbed comment. At the very least we had no stops to change cags etc.

Barn Pool, which was sheltered from the wind, contained hardly a ripple and the sky was showing streaks of blue, but these summery conditions didn't last for long. David Pedlow asked if we could paddle a little way towards Picklecombe, just to see what conditions were like. We did this but very shortly our group had become a bit stretched. I have a feeling that a few of our intrepid heroes may have swapped white teeth for white eyes so I decided that we had seen enough of what conditions were like and set course for Drakes Island where, after a lumpy crossing of The Bridges, we landed through surf for lunch on the beach.

Lunch consumed we re-launched. I made the suggestion that we could paddle anti clockwise around Drakes Island, a suggestion that was greeted with many white teeth and no white eyes. (Our intrepid heroes may not have been quite so keen had they been armed with foresight, or had paid even the slightest bit of attention whilst paddling towards Drakes Island just 30 minutes earlier)! The gap between Drakes Island and Little Drakes Island was awash during wave peaks and dry during troughs. Sensing that a bit of adventure may go down well I traversed the gap and turned around to see what was going on. Gentle readers, I can inform you that with surf running in both directions what was going on was mayhem, a mayhem that kept me entertained for nearly 5 minutes. Once our intrepid heroes had made their way through the gap they probably thought they could relax. They were wrong. The south side of Drakes Island is shallow. Shallow water equals large waves and large waves hitting a solid object like an island tend to rebound at odd angles. We bounced along through a confused sea until we had got past the Island, at which time the waves became a bit smaller and more predictable, coming from just one direction. (Which I'm sure should be the cue for a song).

The Sound was still rather empty as we returned to Mount Batten where 10 sets of teeth had to admit that they knew they had been out paddling. We congratulated ourselves on avoiding the attentions of the Mount Batten Squid and retired to the bar for some well earned refreshment whilst reflecting on what had been a splendid day out.

Old Nosey

You will be pleased to hear that 'Old Nosey' is alive and well and will be featuring in 'Eddylines'. He has been an invaluable servant to Wet News over the years with his information and wishes to continue serving the club for the foreseeable future.

After a recent sea kayak paddle 'Old Nosey' bumped into an old friend of his 'Confucius' who gave some words of wisdom. 'Check you kit works (especially your skeg) before paddling on a windy lumpy bumpy sea kayak paddle'

Nature Watch

A regular feature showing what wildlife paddlers see both on the sea and river. The first is a favourite of mine, the Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) which translates to the hooked-nosed sea pig. The grey seal is a very social mammal. The seals have almost horse-shaped heads with long noses surrounded by long wire-like whiskers. They have two front flippers which are used to power them through the water and heave their bodies along the ground when they are on land. The flippers each contain five strong, curved claws that are used for feeding. They have a thick layer of blubber and two layers of fur to allow them to retain as much heat as possible and spend a longer time at sea. The males can weigh from 170 to 310 kilograms and reach 2 to 2.5 metres in length. The females tend to be smaller at 1.65 to 2 metres and 103 to 180 kilograms in weight.



Photos supplied by Terry Calcott (top left and above) and Merryl Docker (top right)

They can spend two to three days at sea foraging for food, which can take place several hundreds of kilometres offshore. They have a varied diet consisting of a wide variety of fish, cephalopods (octopus family) and crustaceans, but have been found to eat seabirds. They usually take short shallower dives consisting of less than 120 metres and lasting around 8 minutes. Despite this they can hold their breath for up to half an hour and dive to depths of 300 metres.

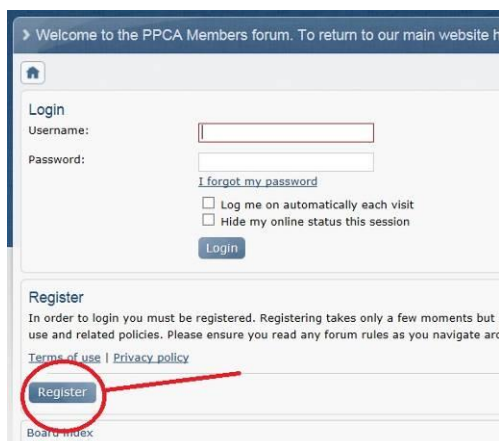
Seals spend most of their time at sea and their primary reason for coming ashore is for breeding. They will stay with their newly born pup for the short period of 2-4 weeks feeding them three to four times a day. During this time the pup will moult their white fluffy coats and produce their waterproof adult coat and develop a layer of blubber. The mother's milk contains 60 percent fat, which rapidly builds up the size of the pup. During this interim the mother will lose up to a third of her body weight. The first year of the pup's life has a very high mortality rate averaging from the 30 to 55 percent. The British population is considered to be highly important as they make up 40 percent of the world's population.

Website Forum from Andy Nicholls (Club Leader, Forum Admin)

Hi all, now is the time of year the website forum is used most of all. It is used to advertise all the river trips and sea/ recreational paddles. Certainly from the river trip leaders point of view it is vital we know how many beginner paddlers we have coming to ratio of helpers. I'm sure it is of use for planning for the recreational paddles too.

To register for the forum is simple. Please visit the club website at www.pcca-canoe-club.org.uk click on "Members Forum" on the menu bar under our name this will take you to the forum.

To register click the box top right of the page as shown.



Welcome to the PPCA Members forum. To return to our main website h

Home

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Username:

Password:

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Hide my online status this session

Login

Register

In order to login you must be registered. Registering takes only a few moments but use and related policies. Please ensure you read any forum rules as you navigate aro

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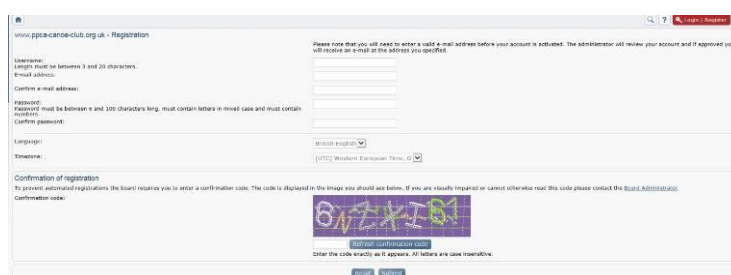
Register

Board index



Then click register, accept the terms and conditions.

You will be then taken to the page shown below



www.pcca-canoe-club.org.uk - Registration

Please note that you will need to enter a valid e-mail address before your account is activated. The administrator will review your account and if approved you will receive an email at the address you specified.

Username:

Length must be between 3 and 30 characters.

Email address:

Confirm e-mail address:

Password:

Password must be between 6 and 100 characters long, must contain letters in mixed case and must contain numbers.

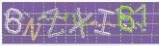
Confirm password:

Language:

Timezone:

Confirmation of registration

To prevent automated registrations the board requires you to enter a confirmation code. The code is displayed in the image you should see below. If you are visually impaired or cannot otherwise read this code please contact the Board Administrator.

Confirmation code: 

Enter the code exactly as it appears. All letters are case insensitive.

Create a username and password (please note these are case sensitive and need to contain a capital, the password also needs to contain a number). Fill in the random text screen at the bottom and press submit. Once done please send an email to andy@pcca-canoe-club.org.uk and let me know who you are and what user name you have created and I will get you activated. (I know this is a pain but I still get about 10 - 20 fake applications per week).

Easy fundraising

Do you shop online? Then sign up for easy fundraising and help raise valuable extra funds for your club. Details on the club website..



Discounts

The following traders have been known to give PPCA members discount. If you know of any more, or find any of this information to be incorrect, please let your editor know.

AS watersports, Exeter 5% or 10% on production of your PPCA membership card.

Camel Canoe & Kayaks, Wadebridge. 10% on production of PPCA card.

Cotswold Outdoor. (Plymouth branch only, 15% on production of your PPCA membership card.

Kayaks & Paddles, Plymouth, 15% on production of PPCA membership card.

Mount Batten Bar, 5% on production of current Mount Batten membership card.

Wild Things, Redruth, 10% to club members.

Club Officers

President	Terry Calcott	07828652775
Chair	Mike Scott	
Vice Chair	Jenny Nicholls	007740103398
Club Leader	Andy Nicholls	07801367363
Asst Club Leader	Jane Hitchings	01752 691274
Secretary	Martin Mills	07530004070
Membership Sec	Paul Hewson	07870276748
Treasurer	John Elworthy	01752 823381
Equipment Officer	Alan Ede	07799556876
Publicity Officer	Pete Anderson	07958694434
Welfare Officer	Joy Ashford	01752 344425 07891221781
Introductory co-ordinator	Tracy Jones	01752 510653
Youth Development	Damean Miller	01752 492761 07736033316

Club e-mail: PPCA@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk (e-mails to this address goes to the club secretary).

Diary dates

These diary dates are correct at time of going to print, please check the website forum or speak to the session leader for any changes nearer to the event.

Please Note: *River trips, final details will appear on the website forum. Meet at Plympton B&Q ready to leave at 09:00.*

Date	Type of paddle	Location	Session leader
November			
Sat 8, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828652775.
Sun 9, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Sun 9, 10:00	Youth/Family paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Ruse 07980355019. <i>A short youth and family orientated fun paddle to keep the younger members included during the winter months. No great distance will be covered, but as always bring a drink and a snack. This is a kayak, SOT and Canoe friendly trip.</i>
Sat 15, TBA	Open boat river trip	TBA	Ian Ruse 07980355019.
Sat 15, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773342787.
Sun 16, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Chris Doidge 07973285969.
Sat 22, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425.
Sun 23, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Sat 29, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Terry Calcott 07828652775.
Sun 30, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966740025.
December			
Sat 6, 10:00	Sea kayak trip	Mount Batten	Joy Ashford 01752 344425. <i>The club sea kayaks can be booked with the Club Equipment Officer, Alan Ede, by a text to 07799 556876 or an e-mail to alancede@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Sun 7, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	John Elworthy 01752 823381.
Sat 13, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Ian Brimacombe 07720957304
Sun 14, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Ken Hamblin 01752 365404.
Sun 14, TBA	Open boat river trip	TBA	Ian Ruse 07980355019.
Sat 20, TBA	XMAS paddle (details in Dec newsletter)		Terry Calcott 07828652775.

Sun 21, 09:00	Beginners river trip	TBA	Clive Ashford 01752 344425.
Sat 27, 10:00	Recreational paddle	Mount Batten	Neville Cannon 07773342787.
Sun 28, 09:00	Intermediate river trip	TBA	Doug Sitch 07966740025.



Photo from one of the PPCA photo competitions (supplied by Richard Docker)



Final thought

A number of club members have been to London to see this amazing artwork, this is a short article about what it means.

Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red is a work of installation art placed in the moat of the Tower of London, UK, commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. The artist is Paul Cummins, with setting by stage designer Tom Piper. The work's title is taken from the first line of a poem by an unknown World War I soldier, which begins: The blood swept lands and seas of red, where angels dare to tread.

The work consists of a sea of ceramic red poppies, being added progressively. It is intended that there will eventually be 888,246 of these, representing one estimate of the number of British and Colonial military fatalities in World War I. The sea of flowers is arranged to resemble a pool of blood which appears to be pouring out of a bastion window. The first poppy was planted on 17 July 2014, and the work was unveiled on 5 August (the centenary of Britain's entry into the war). It is planned to remain on display until 11 November 2014 (Armistice Day).

The 02 edition of Eddylines will be published on 07/12/14. Items for inclusion to be received by Friday 05/12/14. E-mail articles to newsletter@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the PPCA.