



## Editorial

*Paul Hewson*

After a busy newsletter last month, we have a quieter one this time. We have a call for the Easter Paddle on page 2. There is a summary of the club's activities in the Chronicle on page 3. Finally, because it's that time of the year again, we have some policy related material to consider from Paddle UK on page 5

As again, no new members to introduce.

Please, if you've joined recently (for a very broad definition of "recently") please get in touch so we can put a mention in! Here's to a great summer season.

As always, comments, questions, material to include in future editions:  
[newsletter@ppca.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ppca.org.uk).





## Easter Paddle Saturday 4th April

*Terry Calcott*

It is that time of year again Paddlers. The annual Easter paddle will be weather permitting running from Mount Batten. Dust off those Easter hats and ears and come along for a social get together and some Easter food. It is traditional to wear a suitable hat and if you wish something on your kayak. Depending on numbers it may be possible to arrange an Easter buffet. The paddle will start at 10:30 ready to paddle and will be a shorter distance than normal with an extended lunch break. I will post details nearer the date on Facebook and the club forum. Hope to see some new faces joining this club tradition.





## Creek Chronicle

*Adam Coulson*

### Warm Wet Training Events

- Tuesday 3rd February Pool Session
- Tuesday 17th February Pool Session

### Wet Recreational Events

- Sunday 1ST February There was plenty of water and Jack was due to lead an intermediate group down the Loop but due to a lack of takers he cancelled and and Julian and Clive ran a beginners trip on the Lower Dart instead. Clive reports that there was playing and smiling and even some laughter. Oh, and I almost forgot, there was also a swim, but as that happened while playing, it doesn't count.



- Saturday 7th February With a 2.5m open water swell and winds gusting into the late 20s and predictions of heavy rain, Nigel , who was down to lead the Sea Kayak Paddle, wisely opted to stay warm and dry instead. Adam (unwisely?) opted to lead a short paddle where we could shelter from the worst of the swell and wind, if not rain. And so a small group of 4 crossed the Cattewater to explore Sutton Harbour, through the lock gates, and venture a short distance along the Hoe. It was certainly choppy and turning back was a pleasure to have

the wind behind us for the return. One of our number was trying a new kayak, and it must have been a good trip, because they bought it!

- Sunday 8th February On 8 Feb Clive led an intermediate trip on the lower Tavy. Tavistock to Denham Bridge. There were 5 paddlers, all of whom had run the Upper Dart at least once. There was no coaching to be done, nor was there much looking after needed, so instead we resorted to showing off. Clive often says that he is not competitive. Based on today's evidence, Clive tells lies.



- Saturday 14th February Near perfect weather with a blue sky and calm sea. Terry led a group of 11 paddlers headed out to the breakwater lighthouse and then outside to the eastern end. Lunch at Bovisand beach and a bit of rock hopping around to Jennycliff. A great day out on the water nice to have a change from the wind and rain.





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- Sunday 15th February Jack led a group of 5 down the Dart Loop. We walked up the bank to run the last 4 features of the Upper Dart before proceeding down the Loop at a nice medium level. There were some swims and some rolls. However, by the time we got to Spindryer (don't you love the feature names) it felt like there was a lot more water which is rather confirmed in the level graph shown. The rain was thus mildly mistimed, especially as it poured down on us as we were changing and loading boats



- Saturday 21st February A combination of wind and swell rather limited Nigel's options today so a group of 7 ventured up the Plym. Up the Plym that is, on an ebbing spring tide – what could possibly

be the problem with that? Thus it appears that all paddlers were at least ankle deep in mud after coffee, and Nigel's new kayak may have gotten a little muddy too? At least it all washes off and there's been plenty of rain.

- Sunday 22nd February How good it is to have the opportunity to paddle other rivers with Pete, our advanced WW Leader. Therefore just the two of us headed to Harford Bridge to enjoy a fast run down the middle Tavy at what turned out to be high water (0.76m). I suspect that my levels of adrenalin were slightly higher than Pete's but this section of river just keeps on giving ending with a lovely wave train down to the get out. We even had sunshine, an added bonus.



- Saturday 28th February Terry writes: A bit of a stiff westerly breeze. Out along the Hoe then to Picklecombe. Lunch at Edgcumbe then a mooch up past Cremyll and back along the Hoe. A nice social paddle with 10 club members. Thanks to Andy for leading us today.

## Dry Events

- 11th February Committee Meeting



## On the Water Time

*Paddle UK*

We understand that Paddle UK have hired a retired Civil Servant with particular experience in administrative affairs. One of the first suggestions is that, from 1st April 2026 we will adopt a new definition of “on the water time”. The person employed suggests we need to do this because:

“It must be emphasised, and indeed solemnly registered in the annals of administrative prudence, that the establishment of a rigorously codified “on the water time” is not merely a matter of minor convenience or conventional nautical decorum, but rather a prophylactic measure against the insidious erosion of temporal reality itself. For if one permits the uncontrolled influx of members who might, through either inadvertence, recalcitrance, or a most troubling propensity for imaginative punctuality, arrive at times loosely approximating readiness, one risks precipitating a cascade of paradoxical temporal phenomena, not least the spontaneous emergence of alternative aquatic chronologies, existential debates over whether the water itself is in fact on time, and the potential, though highly improbable, conflation of briefing, launching, and tea-break into a single, bewildering continuum. It is therefore both judicious and, if one may venture to use a term of some gravitas, metaphysically imperative, that this policy be adopted without delay, thus safeguarding the Club’s ability to maintain not merely order, but the very coherence of chronological experience in the aquatic sphere.”

### **Paddle UK Club Directive No. 47B/6: Clarification, Interpretation, and Sensible Misinterpretation of “On the Water Time”**

#### **Definition**

“On the Water Time” shall be understood to mean the precise moment at which all members, without exception, are in a state of complete and irreversible readiness to commence aquatic activity, whether or not such activity has, in fact, begun, is imminent, or remains theoretically conceivable.

#### **Interpretative Guidance**

For the avoidance of clarity, “ready to get on the water” shall include, but not be limited to:

- Being physically present in the vicinity of the water.
- Having located one’s canoe, paddle, buoyancy aid, and any misplaced dignity.



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- Having concluded all conversations of a non-urgent, semi-urgent, or entirely fabricated nature.
- Having completed all necessary and unnecessary adjustments to seating, footrests, and existential outlook.

It shall not include:

- Arriving at the car park.
- Thinking about arriving at the car park.
- Sending a message indicating one is “two minutes away” when empirical evidence suggests otherwise.

## The Briefing Paradox

It is acknowledged that a briefing may occur prior to the act of becoming “on the water.” This does not, under any circumstances, imply that “on the water time” is in fact “after the briefing time.” Rather, the briefing exists in a state of administrative simultaneity, both before and after readiness, such that:

- Those who are ready will perceive the briefing as prompt.
- Those who are not ready will perceive it as having already concluded.

## Late Arrivals (or Temporal Non-Compliance Units)

Individuals arriving after “on the water time” shall be classified as:

- Marginally Delayed ( $\leq 2$  minutes late): Eligible for entry, provided they exhibit sufficient remorse and/or cake.
- Optimistically Late (3–7 minutes late): Subject to scrutiny, mild tutting, and retrospective reinterpretation of their intentions.
- Chronologically Adventurous ( $\geq 8$  minutes late): Considered to be participating in a different session entirely, possibly in another dimension.

Claims that one was “basically on time” shall be evaluated against a rigorous standard of fictional plausibility.

## Philosophical Clarification

It is important to understand that “on the water time” is not merely a temporal marker, but a state of being. One may, in theory:

- Be on time, yet not “on the water.”
- Be on the water, yet not “on time.”
- Or, in rare and highly celebrated cases, achieve both simultaneously.

## Enforcement

Enforcement of this policy shall be:

- Firm in principle,
- Flexible in practice,
- And entirely dependent on who is observing whom.



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### **Final Adoption**

Although this policy cannot be formally adopted by the Club until the AGM, we feel it is simple and easy to understand. In summary, “on the water time” is the time at which everyone ought to have been ready, is almost ready, or will shortly claim to have been ready all along.

Any further attempts to define it more precisely risk introducing clarity, which the Committee feels would be a dangerous precedent.



## The PPCA Committee

PPCA is a friendly Club, and we'd love to hear from you! The Club is run by a committee of unpaid volunteers, most of which work full-time. Contact details are listed below. For non-urgent enquiries, please email the person you require rather than telephoning.

If you are new to paddlesport or thinking of taking it up then please contact our Intro Coordinator who can point you in the right direction. Our Intro Coordinator can also answer any questions you may have about our Club, courses on offer etc, drop them an email at [intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk](mailto:intro@ppca-canoe-club.org.uk)

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Thank you to everyone who contributed material, especially the material we just stole from Facebook.

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