



## Axe Vale Canoe Club (AVCC)

Contact us at: [info@axevalecc.co.uk](mailto:info@axevalecc.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.axevalecc.co.uk/>

Affiliated to Paddle England and  
Quality Mark accredited



### River Axe Race Canoe Race

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

**(open to kayaks, canoes, sit-ons, SUPs, Surf Skis, etc.)**



**Race starts at 1030 at Whitford Bridge**

**Briefing at 1015.**

**Finish at Axmouth Harbour (5 miles)**

*Note: The start time is slightly earlier than previous years to catch the high tide.*

# Axe Vale Canoe Club (AVCC)

## The River Axe Canoe Race - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

This popular race is an excellent introduction to canoe racing and also provides a challenge for the more experienced paddler. All classes are open to paddlers with disabilities.

The race starts 5 miles south of Axminster at Whitford Bridge M/R 263953 (nr EX13 7NN). The river Axe twists and winds its way through the Axe Valley for 4 miles before opening out onto the estuary, with a further 1 mile of racing to the finish at Axmouth Harbour (AVCC club within the Axe Yacht Club marina) (nr EX12 4AA).

Separate classes and age categories allow for fair competitive racing and there are medals for all classes. We expect parents/guardians of U12s to determine if this race is appropriate for their child's skill/stamina; paddling a double kayak/canoe with them is always an option. Free refreshments are available to all competitors.

Free refreshments are available to all competitors at the end of the race.

**Participants, if you are feeling ill near the race-day please do not attend.** If you inform us prior to race-day, we can sort a refund.

### Race Details:

**Booking in:** 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Whitford Bridge  
**Briefing:** 10:15 a.m. **Race Start:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Finish:** Axe Yacht Club, Axmouth Harbour Seaton

### Race Rules:

1. For safety reasons:
  - Competitors must render their canoes/ kayaks sufficiently buoyant to remain afloat and to support the craft if capsized.
  - Competitors should be able to swim 50m.
  - **All competitors must wear an appropriate buoyancy aid for the duration of race** (including SUP paddlers) in line with British Canoeing advice. **Any competitor who removes their buoyancy aid during the race will be disqualified from the competition.**
  - Wearing of **helmets** is strongly recommended for all paddlers and **compulsory** for all under 18s for the duration of the race. **Any paddler under 18 years who removes their helmet will be disqualified from the competition.**
  - if you choose to use a SUP leash you must follow Paddle UK advice. **For Safety reasons, ankle or calf leashes should NOT be used. Any leash used must be waist mounted with quick release.** <https://paddleuk.org.uk/stand-up-paddleboard-sup-safety-choosing-the-right-leash/>
  - If you have a significant medical condition that could lead to impaired consciousness (e.g. epilepsy, insulin treated diabetes) **please let us know before the day of the race** even if you are unsure on whether to take part.
2. Under-12 means being 11 years or younger on the date of the race; similarly U14 and U18.
3. Competitors take part on their own risk. The race organisers cannot be held responsible in anyway for loss, accident or damage to persons or property during the event.
4. Any competitor retiring from the race must notify race officials at the finish as soon as possible.
5. All competitors are obliged to render assistance to any other competitor who may be in difficulty.
6. Entry fee is £12.00 for advance bookings and £15 for entry on the day (per person). U12's gain half-price entry (£6.00 advance booking, £7.50 on the day).
7. If you wish to know your time for the race, you are encouraged to use your own stopwatch. We may or may not be able to provide approximate times based on the Class start times.

AVCC race officials will be available at the start of the race to give advice on safety and to ensure rules are followed for the safety of all competitors.

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## Booking Methods:

### Preferred: WebCollect

Go to the WebCollect AVCC home page (<https://webcollect.org.uk/avcc>) and you should see **River Axe Race** listed as an **Event** on **22<sup>nd</sup> March**. Select **'Book places >'**.

(You may have to Register with WebCollect first if you have not used it before.)

Or **Post** – fill in the separate entry form and send it with a cheque to the address shown  
Or **E-mail** – pay by BACS transfer and e-mail [treasurer@axevalecc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@axevalecc.co.uk) the completed form  
(edit separate entry form in MS Word or print/hand-write/scan it in).

**BACS: Axe Vale Canoe Club      Sort Code: 30-90-37      AccNo: 00135704**  
*Ref: AR26-YourName*

## Axe Race Boat Classes

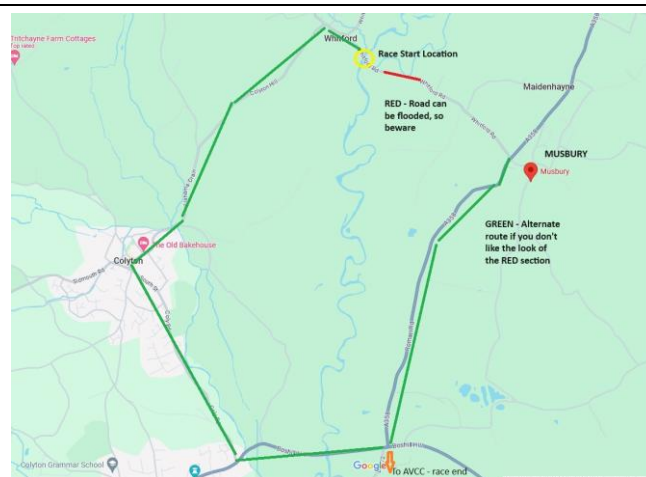
Singles Class (Please tick)		Max Length	Doubles Class (Please tick)		Max Length
A	K1 Racing Single		B	K2 Racing Double	
C	K1 Touring Single/Sea Kayak	(max 5.2m)	D	K2 Touring Double/Sea Kayak	(max 5.2m)
E	C1 Touring Canadian Single	(max 5.2m)	F	C2 Touring Canadian Double	(max 5.2m)
G	Slalom – Adult (18+ yrs)	(max 4m)			
H	Slalom – Under 18 (14-17 yrs)	(max 4m)			
J	Slalom – Under 14 yrs	(max 4m)			
K	White Water Racers (e.g. wavehoppers)				
L	SUP (Stand-up Paddleboard)				
M	Sit-On Kayak - Single		M	Sit-On Kayak - Double	
N	Surf Ski		P	Katakanus	
				(~6 person - £24 per boat, £30 on the day)	

**Note: Katakanus** – up to 6 paddlers, at least one adult, all with helmets.

**Note: Craft with fins/rudders** need to be aware that, if water levels are low, there may be shallow shingle banks evidenced by faster moving surface water. You will need to look for the deep channels around these or be prepared to hop out/off and walk across these shallow areas. Short fins are suggested at low water levels.

**Note: There is limited parking at Whitford**, so it would be ideal if you could arrive in time to drop off equipment at Whitford, then drive down to the end (10 minutes at most) and park in the Axe Yacht Club (where there is ample parking) and then get the shuttle car back to the start. You need to allow at least 20 minutes to complete the drop off and shuttle, so realistically you need to have dropped boats by 09:45.

**Note: In case of recent rain**, the normal approach road between Musbury and Whitford Bridge (the start point) can become flooded where shown by the RED line (there are flood depth markers by the road). If you don't like the look of it, the alternate route is shown in GREEN and takes about 10 minutes extra.





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## Class Guide - Classes A to P are available.



**Class A - K1 Racing Single**



**Class B - K2 Racing Double**



**Class C - K1 Touring/Sea Kayak**



**Class D - K2 Touring, etc. – Double**



**Class E - C1 Touring Canadian Single**



**Class F - C2 Touring Canadian Double**



**Class G-J - Slalom (e.g Fusion, G3 GTS)**



**Class G-J – Slalom**



**Class K - Wild Water Racer (e.g. Wavehopper)**



**Class L - SUP (single or double)**



**Class M - Sit-on (single or double)**



**Class N - Surf Ski**



**Class P – Katakonus** (Treat as Adult Doubles Team when entering naming two primary paddlers)

### Notes:

- Boats with fins need to be aware that in low water conditions there may be shallow gravel banks to be avoided or to hop off & walk across.