

[AXE VALE CANOE CLUB – NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008](#)

[BOB OTTLEY GETS FIRST BCU 'SERVICES TO CANOEING AWARD'](#)

On Sunday 13th January 2008, the President, Albert Woods, of the British Canoe Union (the UK governing body for the sport), presented Bob Ottley a special 'Services to Canoeing Award' in recognition for over 40 years contribution to promoting and developing the sport in the South West region. This is the first award of its kind to be made to a member of the BCU in the UK.



The presentation took place at the clubhouse of The Axe Yacht Club, Axmouth Harbour, Seaton, Devon EX12 4AA. The event was very well attended with friends and fellow canoeists coming from all over the country to see Bob receiving this award.

There was even someone who had travelled from Holland with a special message from the Dutch Canoe Association.

It was really great to see so many Club members at the event – both old and new. Just goes to show how much Bob is loved!

[CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK AND LISA JONES](#)

Mark and Lisa have had a baby girl! Welcome Harriet – your kayak awaits you!

[REMINDER ABOUT THE AGM](#)

Please can you make every effort to attend the AGM, which is due to take place on the 4th April 2008 at the Kilmington Cricket Club at 7:30 p.m. It should only last one hour after which we may retire to the pub, when as tradition has it, the Vice-Chairperson buys the drinks – only joking! (I don't want to put off any nominations)

Anyone wishing to join the committee should contact Tash.

RIVER AXE ACCESS.

It is some seventeen months since I first started to negotiate with the Axe Vale Rivers Association for clear rights of use of the Axe for the club and canoeists generally. It has been a very rocky passage, but we do now have a signed agreement with them. It is not ideal but it is a lot better than what we were offered, and it gives us a basis on which to build and hopefully extend the canoeing season in the near future.

Would all members please note that the fishing season commences on 15th. March, and it is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN for canoeists to use the river after that date and prior to 1st November. During the summer we have full use of the estuary and river up to the Axe road bridge set below Boshill Cross. We can go the bridge, but not beyond.

For the winter months, the agreement allows that from 1st November we have use of the river from Whitford (a point just below the broken weir on the higher side of the bridge) to the estuary and sea. We may canoe this stretch unrestricted during daylight hours, 7 days a week for the closed fishing season.

A couple of weeks ago negotiations virtually broke down completely when the AVRA sent me an agreement limiting our use to two days a week between 0100 and 1500hours. But we dug in and have won access on all days. Nevertheless, I am hoping to open up negotiations with them shortly in an endeavour to win back access during the month of October in time for next winter, and also some limited canoeing on the stretch of water at Whitford for part of the summer months. I would ask you all please to adhere to the access that we have in place and do nothing that might jeopardise future negotiations. Thanks.

John

RIVER AXE RACE 2008



Our annual race for all-comers proved to be one of the most well supported for many years, with excellent weather to match. It is surprising how many canoeists enter this race year after year, and many travel long distances to compete.

With the demise of the Exe Descent I think we will find that ours is one of the best supported races in the canoeing calendar - certainly in the South West Region. Some interesting facts: There were 104 canoes and 127 paddlers on the water as against 88/105 last year, a good increase. Mother's Day did not have a detrimental effect on entrants!!.

Following expenses, the profit to the club was a handsome £688.69.

Shottery Scouts, based near Stratford upon Avon travelled down especially for this race, as they have done for several years, and went home with a good haul of medals.

Congratulations to Lauren Ellis for her medal: first lady to finish in the touring single class.

Brian Watson - not a member of the club - has entered this race virtually every year since its inception in 1979, came second again; in fact he has come second every year to the same couple in a tourer who come first; he assures me that he is not despondent and intends to keep entering until he gets first place.

Finally, bouquets, laurels, medals, and congratulations should be showered on Helen and Sheila for their bravery in entering the touring doubles class in a topolino. As I write this, a report is coming in that they have been sighted approaching the Axe Bridge and expect to finish in time for the A.G.M.

I end by saying a very big Thank-You to everybody who helped to make this race the success that it has become.

John.

[Plans for Spring and Summer 2008](#)

An important Coaching Panel meeting is taking place on the 28th March chaired by Stephen Henaegulph where all the club coaches and helpers will work out a programme of activities for the Spring and Summer. A full programme will be circulated soon. In the meantime if anyone wants to paddle on a Sunday contact Tash, Geoff, Hays or Phil the night before.

[New Club Logos](#). Zoë George (Nick's better half) has kindly designed some new logos for us to consider - let us know what you think

[Axe Vale Canoe Club March 2008](#)

