



Axe Vale Canoe Club (AVCC)

Contact us at: info@axevalecc.co.uk

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

Newsletter April 2010

The Axe Vale Canoe Club welcomes you all to the 2010 season and hopes you will all participate in this year's courses and events that we are organising. There are lots of opportunities to help the club and gain further experiences during the summer.

AVCC Committee



The recent AGM elected the new committee, whom you can contact with any suggestions and concerns or for any information about the club. The key members are:

- Chairman: Tash Kahn-Davis
Deputy: Geoff Hunt
- Secretaries:
Courses & Events & Trips: Hays Hunt
Membership: Gill Hamlett
- Leaders:
Kayak: Phil Rowsell
Canoe: Geoff Hunt

Volunteers needed for a maintenance day: 17th April 2010

E-mail info@axevalecc.co.uk or
phone Tash if you are able to help
or accept via Facebook.

To continue with the club house as the envy of many local clubs, we need to do some maintenance work and are looking for volunteers to join us on Saturday 17th April 2010. We will start at 10:00 and continue to about 16:00 and need members to come along and help to:

- Repair hinges to stores*
- Repair guttering*
- Clean our stores & club house
- Repair trailers & boats, organise Kit, etc.

*People with specialist skills, please contact Phil or Tash.

Summer Programme



The new summer trip programme will be published soon with the usual trips round the coast of Dorset and Devon.

We also hope to repeat two longer trips that were very successful last year:

- Tryweryn White Water Centre (2 day trip)
- France to the Auvergne region for some warm white water paddling (5 day trip).

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Taster Days for Primary Schools

DURING 2009 we took 145 children from 8 schools for 12 days on the water and, despite the poor summer, virtually every day was fine and all were thoroughly enjoyed.



I am now seeking volunteers so DON'T BE SHY-GIVE IT A TRY.

Plans are now well under way for the coming summer for schools to take advantage of what the Axe Vale Canoe Club can offer their pupils.

For those members who have not yet been involved in these Taster Days let me first explain that THE AIM is to safely introduce children of primary school age to the enjoyment of Canadian canoeing, largely on the wide estuary and lower reach of the river Axe. My belief is that the children learn a lot from a day on the water; beyond basic paddling they learn something of the environment as they paddle through countryside which is virtually inaccessible; they develop individual and team skills as they are put through a number of tasks and exercises. These are fun days as well as being somewhat wet days.

FOR 2010, I have already booked the following Taster Days (and there may be a couple more to be confirmed):

Thursday	10th. June	Kilmington
Friday	11th. June	Seaton
Wednesday	16th. June	Seaton
Friday	18th. June	Seaton
Thursday	1st. July	Axminster
Monday	5th. July	Axminster
Monday	12th. July	Colyton
Tuesday	13th. July	Colyton
Friday	16th. July	Chardstock St. Andrew's

These days can only take place providing we have sufficient volunteers to assist. You do not need to be an expert in a Canadian canoe, just generally proficient and water confident, and a sense of humour is essential.

If you can give a day for the benefit of the local children I would ask you please to add your name to the board that is now displayed in the clubhouse.

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Clubmark



We anticipate achievement of this award very soon.

Clubmark is the national scheme for "accreditation of quality" for sports clubs with junior sections. When a club such as Axe Vale Canoe Club achieves the Clubmark award, it shows that we have proved that we run our club in accordance with consistent, accepted and adopted standards. That means we run the club in a responsible, safe manner and encourage all young people to participate and improve their skills at a pace that suits them.

There are many benefits of Clubmark, for example

- Increased membership
- Development of coaches
- Improved access to funding - Better links with schools

For more information about Clubmark and examples of the various groups that achieve it, please see their website at www.clubmark.org.uk.

River Axe Race



The annual River Axe Canoe Race was run again on 7th March 2010 in sunny but cold conditions, with an excellent turnout from paddlers from the South West. The race is run in memory of Bob Ottley, a member of the club for many years, and part of the proceeds are donated to the local hospice that looked after him. This year, one of the club members also raised over £900 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance by paddling in the race.

Around 100 competitors paddled the course, with ages ranging from under 14 to over 80 in a range of kayak and open canoe classes. Awards were presented to the winners of all groups and included a special Super Veterans medal which was given to Brian Massey who, at 85 years young, has entered this race every year for the past twenty years. A special award was also given to John Martell who has an auspicious birthday this year.

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Club House Development Plans



Increasing membership has put some strain on changing facilities recently and has prompted a discussion about the possibility of extending the club house.

The committee approached the Yacht Club (lease holders) last year to ask if we could increase the size of our facilities to which the answer was yes. Our next and more difficult task is to secure funding; it is unlikely that we will be able to get anything from the BCU at this point in time, so we will have to rely on our own ability to raise money.

The new committee will be meeting to agree a target sum we need to raise over a realistic time scale and will invite members to comment on some proposals for an extension to the club house.

This is an exciting project, reflecting the fact that the club is going from strength to strength; to make this a reality though will require effort from all the members of the club.

Keep you posted...

Club Nights Reminder



Tuesday - Open Boats:

The Tuesday night sessions run from the 4th May 2010 and are for Open Boat 1-Star courses and Kayak 1-Star courses. 'Intermediate' paddlers then continue on a Tuesday (after they become members) to progress to their 2-star.

Wednesday - 2-Star Plus Paddlers:

The members club night is held every Wednesday evening running between April and September and is for more experienced paddlers (assessed as at least BCU 2-star standard) - both kayak and open boats. For 2010, Wednesday Club Nights will start on 14th April. Please arrive 6:30 to 6:45pm so we can be on the water at 7:00 pm.

Friday Improvers Night:

The Friday night sessions run from 7th May 2010 and are for Kayak 1-star courses. 'Intermediate' paddlers continue on a Friday (after they become members) to progress to their 2-Star. Intermediate paddlers should arrive between 6:30 and 6:45pm so we can be on the water by 7:00pm.

Thanks to the newsletter
contributors:
Tash, Gill, John and Colin