

NEW BOATSHED OPENS

Thanks to MARLENS raising the money to redevelop the back area of the existing boat shed, there is now plenty of space to store the community and club kit. Before this, as some of you will remember, the kayaks were kept in a small room and stacked on top of each other, which made it difficult getting out and putting away the kayaks at the end of sessions. Thankfully, only a few

suffered the odd bruised foot or toe when they slid off unexpectedly. Well no more! All we ask is that people keep the kit as tidy as possible. Kayaks are best stored on their end, as the photo shows. Plus, the store is only to be used for community and club kit; members should no longer leave their kayaks in the store indefinitely.



BIRTHDAY BUGLER

Julie Andrews (AKA Bugler) took time off from singing to a lonely goatherd to pop down to the Marine lake and do a few of her favourite things. Rumour has it that she is now 40 years young.



Youth Section - Volunteers Required

I am looking for some volunteers to join the Youth Section Working Group because at the moment I have no youth in the section!

You don't have to be a paddler, indeed when I asked a few of the younger members some thoughts were:-

Someone to: run the BBQ, carry the kayaks, pay the fees, transport the kayaks, hold the towel!

Seriously, it would be good for paddlers and non-paddlers to be involved in creating and taking forward some activities to develop the younger section of the club and link in with other groups to see this happen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY!

Two Inuit sitting in a kayak were getting cold so they decided to light a fire in their boat. It promptly sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

Best buy one here then ...



What's all this Monkey Business?

What follows a sunny weekend in Bude? - several wet weekends in Clevedon. During that time we must own up to confusing many spectators with tales of sun, sand and sharks followed by the sound of large numbers of splashing monkeys. Some even wondered why a man parades as Carol! Finally, 'smile you're having an assessment' was freely heard.



In summary, the recent 1 and 2 Star training sessions and assessments learnings:

- Very few want to capsize in the balmy waters of the Marine Lake (Zoe & Holly excepted).
- Just how much water does a kayak hold?
- How long does Tom wait before rescuing me?
- That's what Viper Pants are (not what Alistair thought!)



A very well done to all those involved especially Chris Sargent who missed the 1 Star start so joined in with the 2 Star and got it - brilliant. Thanks also to Judy, Keith and Dave for spending so much time with us on the day. And now for a rest..... Nigel

It's a Rollover

Firstly, I would like to welcome our new members the Lewton family and Martyn Uzzell.

In addition, I would like to inform you that as from now, membership renewals will be twelve months from the date you joined instead of every October.

Steve Holland.

Membership Secretary and Vice Chair.

Contributions

Any members who would like to contribute an article of whatever length, a joke or anything you would like to share with the rest of the club in the next edition of the Clevedon Paddler, please send your contribution to this email address.

editor@clevedoncanoeclub.org.uk

Regards, The Editor

FLEET MAINTENANCE CHARGES

You may have noticed that the new MARLENS boat store is nearing completion. Hopefully soon all the Community Fleet kayaks will be housed in there, which will make it easier to access them and hopefully reduce the amount of damage that they have been suffering recently.

Currently any damage that has been sustained has kindly been repaired by Bob Slee and his team at the Dagger Europe factory in Clevedon.

After discussion with MARLENS, the Canoe Club Committee felt that this situation was unsustainable. We are looking to the future when repair is no longer feasible and the only option is replacement.

With that background and in line with other Clubs, from July 1st, use of Community Fleet and Club kayaks will become chargeable at a nominal rate.

The rates will be as follows and apply to all users of Community and Club kit.

- 1) Specific use of a boat away from the Marine Lake, for example on an organized trip: £3 per day or part day, EXCEPT for Swimming pool sessions.
- 2) General or "have-a-go" use at the Marine Lake: £1 per person per session

The intention is that the money will be split between us and MARLENS on a ratio depending on how many Kayaks are owned by each group.

The Committee do not feel that these charges are excessive, and in the long run will contribute to the development of the respective fleets.

SCHOOLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

This week, the first ever schools training programme involving Clevedon Canoe Club draws to a close. Four schools have been involved, Clevedon Community, Mary Elton, St. Nicholas Chantry, and Yatton Junior. Running over five weeks, with Mike Perrot and Bob Slee providing instruction and assisted by Alistair MacDonald, Nigel Barnes, Nick Calfe and Gavin Price, the programme gave basic tuition to more than 30 local school children. Everyone enjoyed the sessions, including mums and dads watching from the side. At the end, the children went away with goody bags kindly provided by Bob, which also included Club application forms, so we hope to see them return soon as new members.

KEEPING AHEAD

Given the success of the recent BCU 1 & 2 star assessment day, resident Level 1 coaches Nigel and Gavin have felt compelled to keep a step ahead of the skilled paddlers growing within the club and have embarked on a gruelling six week BCU 3 star course, which is run by Mendip Outdoor Pursuits. They will be accompanied by other club members Aaron Price and Charlie and Ollie Marshall. If you want to encourage them and see what the course demands, they will be down at the Marine Lake every Wednesday evening between 7-9pm.

In the same spirit, congratulations must go to Mike Perrott on achieving his Level 2 coaching qualifications.

NOTE: Anyone interested in training from Mendip Outdoor Pursuits, they will provide a tailored six week course for a group of 5-8 people at £80 per person and will provide all kit needed.



CAPTION COMPETITION

Last month's prize was put back in the pot so we have a rollover and this month prize is £10. Just send your entry to editor@clevedoncanoecclub.org.uk



Last month's winning entry was:
Are you sure Johnny Depp started like this?



Some of the other entries are listed below for your amusement:

Ok, so if I'm Captain Pugwash, where's Seaman Staines?
Jack Sparrow never had this problem with his skirt
Lets play Nelson ! - now where's Gavin, sorry Hardy (Kissy, Kissy)
Listen to me, it clearly said the pickled onions were in date, well at least I thought it did
The parrot was tired of hearing how the wicked pirate captain had lost both legs in the jaws of the giant shark, and promptly disappeared.
Where's my cannon gone?
...and Delia said to cover and steam for an hour.
A lot of people may have gone down on the Titanic madam, but I assure you, none have gone down on my kayak.
Back on board after tea and cake, this isn't the QE2
I think the big end's gone.
It might be a bit cramped, but its the cheapest cruise in Clevedon.
Room downstairs for a small one
I go as far as the pier, ma'am, after that you'll have to swim.
I need a new catalytic converter.
What's that knocking in the back noise?
Where's the balls to go with this cannon?
And with that the mermaid upped and left.

PROBLEM PAGE

Dear Doctor Kayak,
I am having trouble with my forward paddling, please, please help.
Yours truly,
Bob Under

Dear Bob
I see your problem. In the main you have good natural rhythmic paddling and trunk rotation in evidence with a reasonable degree of steering accuracy. However, although you are correct to point out that the BCU handbook is not explicit on the following, I find paddling on the surface helps, this not only stops my nose dragging in the mud but also prevents seaweed getting stuck in my teeth.

If you have any paddling problems you need advice on then email: training@clevedoncanoecclub.org.uk

THAT SINKING FEELING

Welcome to another ramble from inside the catacomb that passes for my brain.

So another month has passed since you last sat down and read my thoughts (he says optimistically)

Well this month I have had more time than usual to ponder various things, some useful, some not, but all valid.

First I gave thought to my sons and whether or not I was pushing them into paddling for their sake or for my own in some attempt to regain my lost youth through them, I even bought Harry a new boat to help him feel more at home on the water.

It is a Dagger Dynamo made to resemble your friendly neighbourhood Spiderman, As you can imagine he was overjoyed with his new toy and took it to Marine lake for a test, It was great he paddled around for a while and then got out.

HHmmmm.!!!This is not the result I wanted, If I was 6 yrs old and was given this shiny new boat I would never sleep in my own bed again but alas my son is not me and would rather hang off of my good friend Nigel's boat for hours on end, I console myself by telling myself he will get more

interested as he gets older so this thought remains unresolved and is pending further effort.

Next I moved to Club and how far it has come in a short space of time, I thought of the first meeting at the Moon and Sixpence, just a few of us sat around King Arthur's round table planning what input kayaks could have on the lake festival.

As I sat at the table I looked around at the faces looking back at me and thought what a mixed bag we had here, with the exception of Mike I was probably the most experienced paddler at that table, so full of bravado and may I say it...elitism. The point I am making here is when I paddle with the same bunch of people week in week out I see people fast becoming competent paddlers, excellent coaches, far out doing me in most aspects of our pastime but most importantly I now see a group of friends who a year ago I wouldn't have known from Adam.

As paddlers we trust our friends with our lives. As dramatic as it sounds it is the truth would you trust yours to a stranger? Only if your life depended on it.....

Clevedon Canoe Club =
Friendship

Last but no means least my thoughts turned to the reason I have had so much time to ponder these things. 3 weeks ago some work friends and myself were having a blast on Symonds Yat rapids, up and down we went practising ferry gliding, breaking out, sitting on a wave and surfing, All the things Symonds Yat is best for. Well on one of my runs down I was eddying in and caught an edge and almost went under, my response to this was to put my arm down and hop into the eddie.

All was well until we got out and nipped to the pub for a social drink (as you do)

The twinge in my shoulder began to become a slight pain and as time went on it became down right painful and still is as I type this.

So for those of you who have yet to get a star rating under your belt and those of you who have and are soon planning your 3 stars?

When the instructor tells you to protect your shoulders at all costs.....

Trust me.LISTEN, THEY ARE WISE WORDS.

Until the next time I put finger to key.

See ya.

Niel Banwell