

Club Report for the AGM

Deva Canoe Club June 2007 – May 2008

Deva Canoe Club is now ten years old so we must be doing something right!!! We are looking forward to celebrating with a meal out later this year so look out for this in the newsletters. We are going to ask our brilliant meal organiser Bridget to get on the case!! Any suggestions for a venue would be gratefully received!!

This year we reached 113 members, ranging from 18 to a lot older!., and are still continuing to attract new membership from a wide area. Our members enjoy a range of activities from white water kayaking, open canoeing and sea kayaking, whilst benefiting from free and expert coaching. We have new members who are just learning to paddle and some older members who range from those just trying to stay upright to those who love crashing down the best the Alps and Scotland can throw at them!

The Thursday night sessions have again been very popular with 534 paddlers over 22 sessions. We have had evenings of fun on the weir, learning new techniques (even the reverse seal launch, Simon!) and open canoe 2 star training and assessment, and 3 star assessment. Also Star testing for kayaks and a fun evening with Brookbank bringing a range of kayaks and canoes for the members to try! These sessions would not run without someone to collect the keys, organise the evening and provide the help and encouragement to the new paddlers. Thanks must go to all those who help regularly from the instructors on the water like Ray, Simon, Peter S, Peter C, Geoff, Alan, Martin and all the others, as well as to Lyn for the refreshments. Thanks especially to Peter Cook as he sets the whole thing up every year by liaising with the School and organising all the gear to be down at the centre. This he has stored at his house all winter! Thanks Peter!

Those just starting paddling are able to progress their skills with the help of Simon, Peter S, Ray and Geoff who all help to run the white water trips at weekends for Club members. These trips go to Llangollen, the Washburn, the Tryweryn, the Ribble, the Severn, the Wye and other rivers, depending on water levels. The dam release rivers are often the only reliable water in a dry summer. This means those who have learned at the Arena in the winter can come to the Club Thursday sessions to progress their skills. Then, with practice on other rivers, be ready to join the Club weekend trips in the autumn as well as going on trips of their own in small groups. There are many “ad hoc” trips with groups of friends paddling at weekends as people meet those with similar skills at the Club. There was even a group on the weir on Boxing Day, paddling off the excess of the day before. Thanks Alan!

In September Simon and Peter run the ever popular White Water Safety and Rescue day at Llangollen to teach those much needed skills while the water is still warm!

The sea kayaking group have also had a very busy and happy paddling year. There are over 30 sea kayakers in the club and both Peter C and Alan run trips at the weekends throughout the year. There is often an introduction day paddle on the Conwy, trips round Hilbre Island and the Orme, as well as many trips to Anglesey. These all depend on the wind and weather but are often to be found heading out on the briny. Daniel also ran a successful trip to West Wales in June last year. There was also a sea kayaking group on the club weekend trips in both the Lakes and in Scotland.

The weekend trips like those run by Daniel are very popular. Daniel also excels in running surfing trips with camping, which are enjoyed by all! There have been two Club trips away this year with a trip to the Lakes in November 07 and one to Scotland in April 08. There was also a trip run by Club members who went to the Alps in the summer 07 with Guy and Richie.

The weekend trip to the Lakes was run by Simon, with superb catering by Peter. He is so good that he was asked to do the same in Scotland when Becky organised a trip for us. Great fun was had by all, although we do rely on the weather to provide enough white water in the rivers. But there is always skiing in Scotland as well as plenty of water for the sea kayakers!!

At the end of the 07 season we celebrated with a meal at the Boathouse pub with a quiz by Daniel. (Is there no end to his talents?)

The Club continues to go from strength to strength and we rely on the help and encouragement from everyone and particularly the instructors who give their time and energy for free. Thanks to all those who help regularly and if you feel able to offer any skills then do tell us! We are hoping this year to re-organise the web site to allow feedback and more interactive information to be provided. The committee members have agreed to continue by default but if you feel you would like to join us then do come and tell one of us, as the Club can only continue with your support.