



## Annual Report

### 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018



Written by Keith Brocklehurst, Honorary Secretary, Deva CC  
Approved by John Lewis, Honorary Chairperson, Deva CC

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## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

The club started in May 1999 and has now been going for 19 years and hope to do so for many more years to come. Every year we gain more enthusiastic newbies but lose a few members to less exciting time consuming activities.

DEVA's age range spans +18yrs to 80+yrs and paid up membership for this year was 151, made up of 110 males and 41 females.

We constantly need to think of new ideas to attract a higher percentage of both the younger generation and women. Any sensible suggestions would be always be considered by the committee.

Our members range in ability from complete beginners who've barely been in a boat to fully-fledged mad heads addicted to the adrenaline rush of throwing themselves and their boats off waterfalls.

We have members from many paddling disciplines and with a variety of craft preferences. They include play boaters, surf kayakers, open canoeists, scenic flatwater paddlers, sit-on-top paddlers, scary top end white water paddlers, sea kayakers and last but not least, less energetic white-water paddlers (aka Deva OFs).

There were also a number of members who also tried stand-up paddle boarding for the first time and most succeeded with only the odd one (who shall remain nameless but laughs a lot!) lasting just a few seconds in what can loosely be described as the standing position.

Please remember....when attending any of our Riverside Centre sessions it would be appreciated if you offered help to clean and tidy-up at the end of a session.

The club's officers spend a lot of their time and effort in running and organising everything and hate having to continuously ask you to help out.

With typically 50 riverside sessions a year and with over 100 members attending at some stage during the year, this means that you would only have to help once in 2 years!

So please...offer to help...and don't wait to be asked!

## **2. New Members**

The officers and committee extend a very warm welcome to the 45 new members that joined us this year and sincerely hope that you are enjoying yourselves in Deva CC.

## **3. In Memoriam**

We were saddened to hear about the death of member Stuart Cowie and the club sends in sincere condolences to Stuart's family. Peter Cook and Simon Carver represented Deva CC at Stuart's funeral, Chester crematorium on 9 August 2017.

#### **4. Committee**

The Officers and Committee for the year comprised:

Officers:

Honorary President	- Peter Cook
Honorary Chairperson	- John Lewis
Honorary Secretary	- Keith Brocklehurst
Honorary Treasurer	- Simon Carver
Honorary Membership Secretary	- Simon Carver

Committee

Safety & Welfare Officer	- Alan Reay
Co-opted members	- Mike Evans, Tim Gibbs, Ian McMullen, Steve Cartney, Helen Williams

Most of the above officers are available to chat to at the Riverside Centre on Thursday evenings during the summer and at our fortnightly Sunday afternoon sessions. Some will also be at the Northgate Arena Canoeing sessions on Monday evenings during term time.

#### **5. Committee Meetings**

The club's officers held meetings as and when business required it and the annual full committee meeting was held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Royal Oak in Hoole.

#### **6. Constitution**

The club's constitution was last revised in March 2016 and members may request a copy at any time by emailing the Secretary.

#### **7. Contact us**

You can contact any of the club's officers by e-mailing [devacanooclub@gmail.com](mailto:devacanooclub@gmail.com)

If you need to contact a particular officer then please include their first name in the subject line.

If you wish to participate in a specific Deva event or reply to a recent club email then could we please ask that you reply only to the relevant email(s). Replying using an earlier unrelated club email, where the subject titles may be different, could result in your message being missed as it may not be obvious to the Club officer concerned that it is for them.

## **8. Subscription Rates**

The membership fee for 2017-2018 remained unchanged from 2016/2017.

Membership	£15
Additional family member	£5
Thursday evenings (Contribution to the night's rental fee and refreshments)	
Members	£3
Non-members	£5
Equipment hire	
Thursday eve non-members	£2
Members	£0 (free)
Club approved trip	£5 per day (i.e. £10 per weekend) members only

## **9. Benefits of Membership**

Take advantage of regular club away-day and weekend trips on canal, lake, river & sea (usually free except for any car park / launching charges). If you are free on a Monday evening or Tuesday morning, and have already experienced the weir in Chester, why not come along to Llangollen for a couple of hours? Send us an email for further information.

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Participate in our annual 'Lakes Weekend' in November (A charge is made for the bunk-house style accommodation and meals)

+

Attend our Thursday evening sessions (April to September) on the River Dee and weir in Chester (A reduced rate of £3 per night to cover building hire charge).

+

Benefit from a Deva member's rate for the Chester Northgate Arena canoe lessons where our coaches organise and staff the Monday night term time sessions. If you purchase an annual BRIO Canoeing Club Concession card from Northgate Arena then you pay a significantly reduced rate per session. Another option is by signing up for Northgate's Brio Leisure Card (Free) to obtain a £1 discount on the normal session charge. Ask Peter Cook (Club President) or Keith Brocklehurst (Club Secretary) for a signed discount form.

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Some local canoe/kayak retailers (\*) give club discount (typically 10-15%) on production of your Deva membership card.

Manchester Canoes (Warrington) [www.manchester-canoes-and-kayaks.co.uk/](http://www.manchester-canoes-and-kayaks.co.uk/)  
Go Kayaking North West (Runcorn) [www.go-kayaking.com/](http://www.go-kayaking.com/)

+

Free tuition (\*) by our own experienced members in whatever craft you wish, and at whatever ability level you are at or to which you wish to aspire.

+

And remember, owning your own kit is not essential. You can use ours free at any of our Riverside Centre sessions before you decide to buy, or borrow for a nominal daily charge (£5) for our away-days! We have a wide range of craft: Kayaks, Sea Kayaks, Open Canoes (Canadian type), Sit-on-Tops and Stand-up paddle board.

+

You'll be one of a friendly bunch of folk, keen to help others and introduce them to the joy of our sport. We all have one thing in common which is we all paddle for fun and enjoyment and, apart from water safety, don't take anything too seriously.

(\*) One of the main benefits of becoming members of Deva Canoe Club is that all of our coaching, help, advice and time are given for free. Even on non-club trips you will find that our members will give up their time to coach and help to the best of their ability anyone new to kayaking.

Please note that members are welcome to seek private coaching or courses external to the club if they so wish but this would be at a cost funded by them.

Deva Canoe Club does not endorse any coaching business, equipment supplier or manufacturer and as such any related advice from its members is solely their own opinion.

## **10. Peer Group Paddles**

Deva's Officers are aware that some members organise paddling events through Facebook and we wish to encourage this.

However, we feel that it is important to make clear that such trips are informal, NOT the responsibility of the club and NOT covered by the club's liability insurance.

Members paddling on such trips should consider having their own appropriate liability and personal possessions insurance.

It is the responsibility of each member to decide whether a proposed activity is suitable for them, in particular, beginners and those with limited experience should be aware that some trips may be too difficult.

## **11. Club Events**

A club event will only be announced from the club email address and all communications relating to the event must come through the same address.

If you participate in any official Deva Canoe Club event, are a paid-up member of the club or a registered guest, you will be covered by our British Canoeing Liability Insurance whether you are a member of British Canoeing or not.

Please note that this liability insurance does NOT cover your boat or kit and therefore members should consider having their own appropriate personal possessions insurance.

A club trip can be organised by any club member but must first be approved by the club's Safety and Welfare Officer (Alan Reay) and have approved leader(s) within the group responsible for leading on the water.

Approval for a club trip can be obtained by contacting Alan Reay via the club E-mail.

## **12. Use of Club Boats and Kit**

Please note that the club only loans-out its boats and kit (£5 per day) for official Deva events and not for peer group paddles or one's personal use.

## **13. On Home Water**

Our Spring / Summer season Thursday evening sessions opened on 6 April 2017 until 28 September 2017 with alternate Sunday afternoons throughout the year.

We wish to remind everyone attending our Riverside sessions that Deva CC is not a “Bureau de Change” and as such our treasurer would appreciate cash to be restricted to Pounds Sterling unlike some other currencies that have also been tendered during the year (Krone, Euro etc.)

Many thanks go to everyone who organised, lead trips, coached our inexperienced members, photographed our moments, cleaned / mopped up and most importantly supported our events throughout the year. Too many to name individually but your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Please remember that the club cannot operate without the help of its members. If you can spare some time then please come forward and speak to one of the committee.

The Riverside centre, the building that Deva Canoe Club, Chester Riverside Canoe Club and Cheshire Scouts rent from the Queen's Park High School, is our base and home to our Thursday evening (Spring / Summer) and Sunday afternoon (Autumn / Winter) River Dee and Weir sessions which included the all-important socialisation, hot drink and, for those fortunate to be off the water first, chocolate biscuits.

The year's home events included:

Demo session on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May when ‘Go Kayaking North West (Runcorn)’ brought a wide range and sizes of craft for us to try. Thanks go to the Chester Riverside Canoe Club for organising this event and laying on a barbecue.

Regular SunDee Paddles from Sandy Lane to the blue bridge and back with an interlude for lunch at the Crook of Dee (a bend in the river....not a pub!).

Night paddle from Eccleston back to the Riverside Centre on our last Thursday evening of our summer sessions.

Boxing Day paddle by kind invitation of Ian McMullen's Chester Riverside Canoe Club. 8 Deva members attended.

For those who loved paddling in warm chlorinated water, the weekly term time pool sessions in Northgate Arena.

## **14. Paddling in Wales**

Please be aware that there are no current laws which say we can, or cannot, paddle on Welsh waters. As such there is a chance that you could be approached by land-owners, fishermen or local residents all who may have strong anti-paddler views.

Please treat these individuals with respect, listen to what they may have to say and if you feel the urge to reply then please be polite to them.

Most importantly, please don't discredit our club!

The Welsh government are currently addressing a wide range of related issues and we look forward to workable agreements that satisfy all sides of the argument.

## **15. Further afield**

Approval for a club trip can be obtained by contacting Alan Reay via the club E-mail and any 'Approved club Trip' will then be advertised to the membership through the club E-Mail. Full details of an approved trip will not be advertised through Facebook. A club trip can be organised by any club member but must have a 'committee approved' leader within the group responsible for leading on the water. If you have any questions then please contact us by email.

DEVA has become well recognised and respected at MEM, Llangollen. If you are there, then please introduce yourself to Kirsteen (River Active Llangollen) as DEVA members.

Tuesday morning group (aka Deva OFs)

You don't have to be retired to be one of the OFs gang. It's open to any member who has their own boat, time to spare on a Tuesday morning and is confident in paddling on Llangollen's grade 2-3 white water.

River Dee (Chester) – Farndon to Sandy Lane  
River Weaver – upstream paddle from Winsford Flashes  
River Dee (Llangollen) - Ponsonby Arms to Trevor Rocks  
Llangollen Canal - Eisteddfod Pavilion to Sun Trevor  
Llangollen Canal - Sun Trevor to Pontcysylte Aqueduct  
Llangollen Canal - Sun Trevor to Llangollen town

Sunday crew	River Dee - MEM, Llangollen
Monday evening group	River Dee - MEM, Llangollen

Plus:

April 2017	
Alan Reay	Sea Paddle - Conwy Ascent
May 2017	
Alan Reay	Sea Paddle – Anglesey - Beaumaris
Peter Cook	Sea Paddle – Menai Straits

June 2017

Peter Cook Sea Paddle – Colwyn Bay

July 2017

No additional trips took place

August 2017

Alan Reay River Severn - Three day paddle

Alan Reay Sea Paddle - Colwyn Bay / Great Orme

Peter Cook Sea Paddle - Menai Straits

John Lewis Introduction to white water and rescue practice

Alan Reay Sea Paddle – Anglesey - Gallows point to Penmon point

September 2017

Peter Cook Sea Kayak safety day - Anglesey – Rhoscolyn

John Lewis River Severn - Bridgnorth to Arley

Alan Reay Dudley Tunnels

October 2017

No additional trips took place

November 2017

John Lewis Annual Lakes weekend

December 2017

Alan Reay Pre-Christmas paddle along the Llangollen Canal

January 2018

No additional trips took place

February 2018

No additional trips took place

March 2018

Alan Reay River Wye - Rhayader to Builth Wells

Don't forget to check the calendar on the Deva Canoe Club website for future trips

[www.devacanooclub.co.uk](http://www.devacanooclub.co.uk)

## **16. Sea Paddles – The procedure to follow**

There will need to be suitable weather conditions for the trip to take place.

The numbers going on a trip will need to be limited in order for the group to be manageable and safe.

The limit on numbers will be governed by the number of Novices and the numbers of experienced paddlers.

An E-Mail will be sent out in advance of the trip giving the basic details of venue and times. If you are interested in going on the trip, you must reply on that E-Mail even if you are not sure and may drop out.

Numbers and arrangements will be based on the responses to the E-Mail.

Only those who have asked to be 'put on the list' will be sent the final confirmation and details of the Trip.

Do not just turn up on the day or inform us the night before!

If you wish to use a club sea kayak (£5 charge), you will need to book it in advance (on the e-mail), collect it on the previous Thursday evening and return it the following Thursday evening.

There is great demand for certain specific sea kayaks, so you will need to get your request in early!

However, we will decide how best to allocate out the boats.

If you wish to borrow a club sea kayak but cannot transport it or store it yourself, then you will need to let us know a.s.a.p. as someone will need to be found who is prepared to collect the boat on the Thursday, transport it for the Trip, store it and then return it the following week. This can probably be arranged, but not as a last minute thing.

Please ask if you are unsure whether the trip will be suitable for your ability level, or you need to know what kit to bring, apart from your packed lunch and drinks.

These trips will all be classed as official Deva club trips and anyone wishing to organise a 'Peer Group Trip' should co-ordinate it through the club Facebook page.

## **17. Annual Lake District Weekend (17-19 November 2017)**

Thanks to John Lewis for organising the club's annual lakes trip to Elterwater.

Chefs John Lewis (main course) and Alan Reay (pudding course) combined their culinary skills to feed and water the 27 hungry members who attended.

Members too showed their appreciation on Facebook and their messages are included below....

Kerry Arnold said...Brilliant trip, thanks John (particularly like the posh Cowards pies.....and their throw away cooking trays).

Helen Williams posted...Thank you to everyone involved in the lakes trip for a great time. Especially thank you for letting us bring Thomas so both Pete and I could paddle.

Bill Neary commented..Thanks so much for organising another great trip John

Stuart Lloyd added...Thanks for all your help it was fantastic.

## **18. Donations to and from the Club**

The club wishes to acknowledge the kind generosity of members for donations of miscellaneous items of kit throughout the year. In particular a local resident, Mr J A Shepherd, who very generously donated an almost new Venture Hybrid Kayak to the club.

The organisers of the 2017 Dee Mile Swim donated £150 to the club in recognition of its help in supporting their event, We have since donated this money to the RNLI.

## **19. New purchases**

A second hand sea kayak plus miscellaneous bits and pieces.

## **20. Boat Inventory at year end**

Inland kayaks	27 (+1 rescue practice boat)
Sea kayaks	9
Sit on Top Kayaks	2
Stand Up Paddle Board	1
Open Canoes	10

## **21. Annual Inspection and Testing**

The annual inspection of boats, helmets, cagoules, wetsuits plus the testing of all buoyancy aids (PFDs) for this year took place on Saturday 25 March 2017 at 1pm. All damaged or defective items were removed from service.

Peter Cook, Simon Carver, John Lewis, Keith Brocklehurst and Steve Cartney were present.

## **22. Learning Occurrences**

Nothing to report this year

## **23. Promoting DEVA**

A number of Deva's officers (Peter Cook, Keith Brocklehurst and John Lewis) attended the Chester Riverside Canoe Club's 'Go Kayaking' day on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July to promote Deva Canoe Club. We look forward to those adults showing interest in our club joining us at some time in the near future.

River Active Llangollen, Manchester Canoes and Kayaks and BRIO (Northgate Arena) kindly exhibit DEVA advertising posters.

## **24. Creating links with Universities**

In November 2016 we created a special club 'Associate Membership' solely to enable bona fide university students to benefit from Deva's discounted rate for Northgate's canoeing sessions. However, any student(s) wishing to join Deva CC will still have to pay our full membership fee.

We are also working closely with Chester University's newly created Watersports Society to encourage its members to take up canoeing.

We ran two taster sessions for the University in October 2017 where 16 of this year's freshers came to have a go at kayaking.

Many thanks to Deva members John Lewis, Keith Brocklehurst, John Williamson and David Riley for their help during these sessions.

## **25. Helping Others**

We wish to congratulate Ian (Mac) McMullen on receiving BBC TV's Christmas Star award this year in recognition of his contribution to the success of the Chester Riverside Canoe Club.



Ian is president of the CRCC and Deva committee member too and there are a number of us in Deva who have also benefitted from his wealth of knowledge and experience.

Well-deserved Ian and happy paddling!

Deva CC is always being asked by local charities and organisations to help with their events.

We see these as an important part of our ‘paddling life’ and this year we are delighted to be part of the following:

#### The Dee Mile Swim 5 August 2017

16 Deva members gave up their spare time to help and we received this email from Ciara Murphy, organiser of the event:

Just a quick message to say a huge thanks from me personally for your amazing efforts on Saturday at the Dee Mile. Your teamwork, flexibility and support for the swimmers made for a very smooth run and enjoyable event.

Messages have been flooding in from swimmers who clearly had a great experience of the Dee Mile and felt that they were looked after exceptionally well.

The event is growing every year and you keep on rising to the challenge! Any feedback on what we can do better is always appreciated.

I will ask our treasurer to donate to your club to the bank details that you gave us last year.

Many many thanks all of you!

Ciara

#### **26. Supporting the RNLI**

On Friday 24 November we held a Fish and Chip supper fundraiser in aid of the RNLI at the Chester District Scout HQ, Weston Grove, Upton by Chester.

Jonny Eldridge, who was a Deva member, had just completed a clockwise circumnavigation of Ireland and he kindly offered to do a presentation of his 35 day journey.

There was also an opportunity for everyone to bring their unwanted kit to sell on the bring-and-buy tables.

Many thanks to Alan Reay and Peter Cook for organising and to the 27 members and friends who supported the event and help raise a phenomenal £180. Deva CC added an additional £150 (from the Dee Mile Swim event) resulting in the grand sum of £330 being donated to the RNLI.

## **27. Christmas Paddle**



Thanks to Alan Reay who organised this year's Christmas trip along the Llangollen Canal and, for those with a head for heights, an opportunity to paddle over the Pontcysyllte aqueduct and to enjoy a festive mince pie.

This was very much enjoyed by the 21 paddlers who participated.

The trip finished with lunch at the Sun Trevor pub.



## **28. Club Facebook Page**

The club has a Facebook page, **Deva Kayakers + friends of** (administered by John Lewis) with 228 registered followers.

Existing members have been out in force posting ad-hoc friendship trips on our Facebook wall and newer members are learning it's always worth asking if you can join in even if you are unsure if you meet the required ability level, as long as you are honest about your own ability. After all none of our regular members will purposely put you at risk or on water that you won't cope with, so the worst that can happen is they reply with "not this time due to your ability level or the current water level".

Often (water level allowing) you will find that they will willingly take you and look after you if it is at the top end of your ability, so thank you to all members who have been doing this and as such helping less experienced paddlers to improve their skills.

But please remember, anyone wishing to organise a trip on Facebook should ensure they make it clear that it is a peer group paddle and not a club organised trip as well as indicating what standard of paddler the trip is suitable for (e.g. Grade 2/3 must be competent paddling the Lower Tryweryn).

If you wish to access our Facebook page then please email John Lewis at [devacanooclub@gmail.com](mailto:devacanooclub@gmail.com) and he'll send you instructions on what to do.

## **29. Deva Photographs**

Many thanks to those who have captured Deva's canoeing/kayaking adventures throughout the year.

In particular Terry Hudson who, as the official Deva paparazzi, continues to capture the moments of the club's members. Some of you may have heard strange whirring noises whilst paddling. Don't panic...it's only Terry's new drone flying above you waiting to capture the next photogenic opportunity!

The majority of pictures are posted on our Facebook page with some also being uploaded to our Flickr account.

[To view the Deva Canoe Club photos on Flickr....](#)

Go onto Flickr.com  
In the search box type DEVA CANOE CLUB  
Click on SEARCH PEOPLE  
Click on the DEVA LOGO  
Click on the large blue DEVA CANOE CLUB wording  
Click on PHOTOSTREAM to show all photos.  
Click on ALBUMS to show photos by events.

To add Deva Canoe Club photos on Flickr send the Secretary an email and you'll receive the log-on details and password.

## **30. Club Clothing**



Deva CC has club clothing with its logo on it (on front with or without your name and on the back too).

There is a choice of polo shirts £12.50, tee-shirts £8 and hoodies £20, plus postage. There's a selection of colours too.

Products are being supplied by Sportsform in Bedford and we are listed on the front of their front Website page, <http://sportsform.biz/90-deva-canoe-club>.

You need to order from and pay them directly, and if several of you want to join together to form an order to see if it saves postage then feel free (the website states postage at checkout) but you need to sort it out among yourselves!

## **31. New Community Watersports Centre**

A world class £3.5m Chester boathouse scheme had been approved and received planning permission. However due to a technicality raised by a local resident's lawyers, planning permission is having to be re-sought sometime in March 2018.

The saga continues and is unlikely to be completed for a number of years.

Although there are no actual plans shown on the site there is one artist's impression of the building.



The club's position is that currently we do not know whether the provision being made for our club is sufficient for our current needs and operation and also future expansion and development of the club.

There is also no financial Business Plan as yet so we do not know if the proposed Centre is financially viable and capable of being self-financing long term and whether or not the club can afford to be part of it.

It will obviously cost a lot of money to run such a Centre, and that money must come from somewhere.

Please be assured that if Deva's officers feel the project is unsustainable or disadvantages the club they will consult all members through a general meeting.

If you have any questions please ask one of the club's officers but we can't guarantee to have all (if any) of the answers.

An enormous vote of thanks goes to Peter Cook for representing Deva CC at all the Design User Group and Steering Group meetings and to club members Alan Reay (representing the Scouts Canoeing group) and Ian McMullen (representing the Chester Riverside Canoe Club) for their joint support too.

Keep your paddles crossed for a successful outcome to this project.

## **32. Next Year (2018-2019)**

Our 20<sup>th</sup> year starts on 1 April 2018 with the Thursday evening Riverside season commencing on 5 April 2018.

The major change this year will be on Sundays. We will still be meeting at the Riverside but instead of every fortnight alternate meetings are designated as 'away days'. These 'away days' may be on Sundays or Saturdays. In other words, working on a four week rotation, we will have a fortnightly meeting; one at the Riverside, and one away day. Think of it as playing 'home' and 'away' on a two week rotation.

We hope the new pattern will provide a greater variety of experiences at more sites to paddle at than in previous years.

Mike Evans has run a Monday evening at Mile End Mill, Llangollen (grade 2-3 white water) for several seasons and is intending to be there again from 6.00 p.m. in the coming summer months. We'll email you once the actual start date has been decided.

### **33. Membership Subscriptions**

If you joined after September 2017 then your membership is valid until 31 March 2019, for everyone else membership subscriptions (£15) become due on 1 April 2018.

Please make the treasurer's life easier by paying on-time and without having to be reminded by the Black Monks, the bank who are sanctioned with debt collection on behalf of the club.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells, and his Archdeacon, can be very persuasive if annoyed and are always seeking an opportunity to use their newly acquired poker that has some interesting sharp bits at the business end.

Last year's non-payers (2016-2017) will soon be removed from the club's email circulation list by the Membership Secretary, whose decision is always final!

### **34. Your Personal Information**

When you first joined the club you advised us of any current health issues. If your health has changed in a way that it may now affect your paddling ability then it is your responsibility to inform the leader of every Deva trip/event that you participate in. The Membership Secretary should also be informed so that your personal details can be updated. Email Simon at [devacanooclub@gmail.com](mailto:devacanooclub@gmail.com)

### **35. Data Protection**

Personal information given to us on the club's membership and health declaration forms is solely for the purpose to help with the administration of the club and communicating directly with members. It will always be treated in the strictest confidence by the club's officers and never shared with anyone else. Members can request to view their own personal data held by the club by emailing Simon at [devacanooclub@gmail.com](mailto:devacanooclub@gmail.com)

## **36. Useful Websites**

Dev a Canoe Club [www.devacanooclub.co.uk](http://www.devacanooclub.co.uk)

UK Rivers Guidebook [www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk](http://www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk)

River Active (Llangollen) Ltd, Mile End Mill, Llangollen  
[www.north-wales-rafting.co.uk](http://www.north-wales-rafting.co.uk)

Environmental Agency  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/riverlevels/default.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/riverlevels/default.aspx)

Natural Resources Wales, Corwen Monitoring Station  
<http://rloi.naturalresources.wales/ViewDetails?station=4163>

Rain Chasers, River Levels [www.rainchasers.com](http://www.rainchasers.com)

British Canoeing [www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk)

Manchester Canoes and Kayaks, Warrington  
[www.manchester-canoees-and-kayaks.co.uk](http://www.manchester-canoees-and-kayaks.co.uk)

Go Kayaking, Runcorn [www.go-kayaking.com](http://www.go-kayaking.com)

Dee Sports, Chester [www.watersportschester.co.uk](http://www.watersportschester.co.uk)

The Rubber Man, Dry Suits and Repairs, Glan Conwy [www.rubberman.co.uk](http://www.rubberman.co.uk)

## **37. Weil's Disease**

### **What is it?**

Weil's disease is a bacterial infection carried in rats' urine which contaminates water and wet river banks. The bacterium does not survive for long in dry conditions. It can occur in any water, including swift streams and rivers. The likelihood of becoming infected is greater from stagnant or slow moving waterways.

### **How serious is it?**

It can be a serious illness requiring hospital treatment and can lead to kidney or liver failure. One patient in 19 dies with it. Weil's disease is a notifiable illness.

### **How do I catch it?**

The bacteria are absorbed through the skin and mucous membranes of the mouth and eyes. It gets into the blood stream more easily if you have a minor cut on your feet or if you do capsize drill or rolling.

### **What should I do about it?**

If you fall ill with the symptoms, after canoeing, particularly from 3-19 days following, and have any of the features in the case history call your doctor early.

### **The most common symptoms are:**

Temperature, an influenza-like illness, and joint and muscle pains (pains in the calf muscles are often particularly noticeable).

Jaundice and/or conjunctivitis may be present, or develop, although the absence of any of these symptoms does not mean that the illness is not Weil's disease - nor does a symptom in isolation necessarily indicate that Weil's disease is present.

Tell your doctor you have been canoeing and where. If Weil's disease is suspected antibiotics must be administered immediately - within 24-48 hours of onset.

### **In Summary:**

Avoid capsize drill or rolling in stagnant or slow moving water.

Wash or shower after canoeing.

Cover minor scratches on exposed parts of the body with water-proof plaster.

Use foot-wear to avoid cutting feet.

If you have a flu-like illness after canoeing go to your GP early - tell him/her you are a canoeist.

## **38. Deva Canoe Club - Risk Assessment for Canoeing and Kayaking**

<b>Canoeing and Kayaking are risk assumed activities.</b>		
<b>It is incumbent on all participants to show a duty of care to other people involved</b>		
<b>Who may be harmed</b>	<b>The likelihood of the risk occurring</b>	<b>Consequences</b>
<b>Members of the club</b>	<b>Very Low (VL)</b> There is a risk but there is little chance of it occurring	<b>Insignificant – but present</b> <b>Any injury would be very minor.</b>
<b>Guests of the club</b>	<b>Low (L)</b> There is a risk but it is unlikely to occur.	<b>Slight</b> <b>Any injury would only be only of a minor nature. i.e. graze, bruise or minor cut</b>
<b>Coaches and Activity Leaders</b>	<b>Medium (M)</b> There is a risk and there is a reasonable chance of an occurrence.	<b>Moderate</b> <b>Any injury could result in the participant not continuing with the activity.</b>
<b>Members of the Public</b>	<b>High (H)</b> There is a risk and, on balance, an incident may occur.	<b>Serious</b> <b>Any injury would be regarded as serious. i.e. Broken bone, serious burns etc.</b>
<b>Other water users.</b>		<b>Very Serious</b> <b>The consequences could be fatal or involve life or mobility threatening injuries.</b>

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequences</b>	<b>Action &amp; Controls</b>
<b>Drowning</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Very Serious</b>	<b>Swimming tests, Capsize drills, Rescue procedures in place, Buoyancy aids worn</b>
<b>Injury due to capsize</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Training &amp; proficiency in capsizing drills</b>
<b>Injury due to activity</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Instruction &amp; best practice in correct technique for strokes and activities.</b>
<b>Head injuries</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Wearing of helmets whenever appropriate</b>
<b>Cuts &amp; abrasions</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Slight</b>	<b>Appropriate footwear to be worn. First Aid kit to be available</b>
<b>Hypothermia</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Appropriate clothing to be worn for conditions and activities, Awareness of the effects of cold water immersion. Signs, symptoms and treatment.</b>
<b>Waterborne Diseases</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Appropriate briefing. Open wounds to be covered.</b>
<b>Injuries due to loading/unloading boats</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Advice given on best practice in Manual Handling.</b>
<b>Entrapment</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Training &amp; proficiency in capsizing drills. Appropriate safety cover in place in situations where entrapment might occur.</b>
<b>Medical Conditions</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>It is the responsibility of participants to make coaches/leaders/others aware of any relevant medical conditions.</b>

## GENERAL RISK AWARENESS

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequences</b>	<b>Action &amp; Controls</b>
<b>Weather</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Slight -Serious</b>	<p><b>Check weather forecasts.</b></p> <p><b>Awareness of effects of temperature, wind, rain and lightning.</b></p> <p><b>Only paddle when conditions are acceptable&amp; wear appropriate clothing</b></p>
<b>Water &amp; Environment</b>	<b>Low - Medium</b>	<b>Slight -Serious</b>	<p><b>Awareness of water temperature.</b></p> <p><b>Awareness of Hypothermia - signs , symptoms and treatment.</b></p> <p><b>Check river levels &amp; rain forecast</b></p> <p><b>Only paddle when conditions are appropriate to ability level of group</b></p> <p><b>Awareness of possible water pollution.</b></p>
<b>Participants</b>	<b>Low - Medium</b>	<b>Slight - Serious</b>	<p><b>Awareness of any relevant medical conditions.</b></p> <p><b>Awareness of possible injuries due to entering water.</b></p> <p><b>Awareness of possible injuries due to collisions with other participants.</b></p>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Low - Medium</b>	<b>Slight - Serious</b>	<p><b>All equipment to be in a safe condition for the activity.</b></p> <p><b>Boats &amp; equipment loaned out to club members and guests to be regularly checked and tested each season.</b></p> <p><b>Additional airbags recommended for WW Kayaking &amp; Canoeing.</b></p> <p><b>Awareness of possible injuries due to incorrect manual handling of boats etc.</b></p>

### **39. Treasurer's Report for 2017/2018**

The financial position of the club continues to remain healthy thanks to the efforts of our Honorary Treasurer, Simon Carver.

The year-end accounts for 2017-2018 are given below.

	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>
Cash in hand at start of year	£103.92	
Balance at bank at start of year	<u>£6,831.40</u>	
Balance B/F	£6,935.32	
Membership	£1,915.00	
Riverside centre	£3,358.58	£2,513.00
BCU		£348.50
Boats		£400.00
Other capital		
Lakes trip	£1,442.00	£1,250.33
Training		£12.00
Miscellaneous	<u>£342.00</u>	<u>£721.29</u>
TOTALS for year	<u>£7,057.58</u>	<u>£5245.12</u>
Balance C/F + credits	£13,992.90	
Balance after spending	£8,747.78	
Balance at bank	£8,940.38	
Less cheques not presented	£8,742.38	
Cash in hand	<u>£5.40</u>	
Total	£8,747.78	

Simon Carver  
Treasurer - Deva Canoe Club  
31 March 2018

## **40. Minutes of the 2017 Deva Canoe Club AGM**

**Riverside Centre**  
**18:20 on Thursday 27th April 2017**

Present: 26 (4 officers, Welfare officer, 2 co-opted committee, 19 members)

**1. Welcome.**

**The Chairman (John Lewis) welcomed members to the meeting.**

**2. Apologies for absence.**

**Pete Pryce, David Riley, Peter Walters, Steve Cartney, Helen Williams,  
John Goggin**

**3. Matters arising from the 2016/2017 Annual report (including financial  
summary).**

**None. Acceptance proposed by: Peter Steel      Seconded by: Bill Neary**

**The Chairman thanked the secretary for compiling the annual report and  
all the other work he had done throughout the year.**

**4. Membership Subscriptions for 2016/2017.**

**Members were reminded that subscriptions are now due for 2017/2018.**

**The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his efforts in managing the  
club's finances and maintaining the healthy accounts.**

**5. Committee Officers and Co-opted Members for 2017 – 2018.**

**Officers:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Peter Cook</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>John Lewis</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Simon Carver</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Simon Carver</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Keith Brocklehurst</b>

**Committee:**

**Safety and Welfare officer      Alan Reay**

**Co-opted Committee members:**

**Steve Cartney, Mike Evans, Tim Gibbs, Ian McMullen and Helen  
Williams**

**The list of committee was read out.**

**Acceptance proposed by: Peter Steel      Seconded by: Brian Sanderson**

**6. Forthcoming Deva Events.**

- **Club safety day on Sunday afternoon at the Riverside Centre (to be arranged)**
- **Conway Ascent , Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017**
- **Sea Paddle, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017**
- **Invitation to Chester University to try out kayaking/canoeing, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017**
- **Go-Kayaking Demo Day (Joint with Ian's CRCC), Sunday Afternoon 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017**
- **Club day @ MEM, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2107**
- **Assisting in the Dee Mile Swim event in Chester, Saturday 5th August 2017**
- **River Severn, Week-end trip 11/12<sup>th</sup> August 2107**
- **Lakes Weekend at the Elterwater Youth Hostel will be on 17-19 November 2017.**

**Members were also reminded about the difference between ‘official DEVA trips’ and the ‘Peer trips’ that are put on FACEBOOK.**

**Any ideas / suggestions for future club trips should be sent to Alan Reay at the club email address.**

**7. Watersports Hub Update.**

**President Peter Cook described the current situation where planning permission had been granted but there was still a long way to go before building could commence due to, as yet, unresolved building management and financial issues.**

**Peter assured members that everyone would be consulted in any final decision that the Deva officers had to make in relation to the club supporting (or not) the new build.**

**The Chairman thanked Peter for the considerable amount of his free time he had spent on the project. This was echoed by everyone present.**

**8. Any other business.**

**None received.**

**Peter Steel thanked the committee for all their hard work in running the club and this was echoed by those present.**

**Written by: Keith Brocklehurst, Secretary – Deva CC, 28 April 2017**

**Approved by: John Lewis, Chairman – Deva CC**