



ISLE OF PORTLAND CANOE CLUB

December 2011 Newsletter

Firstly - the IoPCC Christmas Do is on Saturday 17th December at 7.30pm at the Royal Breakwater Hotel, Castletown. You can join our party (presently 16 of us) right up to 8th December. The cost is £15 for a Champagne aperitif – 3 courses – mince pies and coffee. You can even stay over at the Hotel for half their normal rate. Just send Ian, Jill Franks or myself a message before 8th December.

November was a busy month for the Club. On Friday 11th we had our AGM. There was good turnout of about 35 for the meeting. The business of the meeting was over in 20 minutes. The only significant change on the Committee is that Clive West has resigned as Treasurer after years of sterling service and Jill Franks has stepped into the post. After the Club business we had supper and time for a chat. Next year we will allow more time for this part of the evening. After supper Heather Rainsley gave an image based presentation on sea kayaking in the Orkneys and then Mark Rainsley presented expedition white water paddling in the Himalayas. A collection of £83 was made which has been given to the RNLI and the Dartmoor Rescue Group. Congratulations are due to the Rainsleys as they have just announced that they are expecting their first child next May.

Looking ahead, next years AGM is on Friday 16th November at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Dorchester. Eurion Brown is planning to circumnavigate the UK in the summer of 2012 and he will be our guest speaker for the evening. Make a note in your diary now so you don't miss it. Non members are very welcome to join us after the first 20 minutes or so when the Club business will be over.

The 2012 subs are now being collected. It costs only £20 a year for BCU members. The reduction from 2011 is because membership no longer includes a permit to paddle in Portland Harbour. This is now the responsibility of individual members. Jill's address can be found on the membership form on the main website. You will need the form and her address to send off your 2012 membership fee.

Club funds are spent mainly on subsidising training for the membership. You can get your money back just by going on one training course! Presently there are places available on a 3* Sea fine tuning and assessment weekend with Richard Uren at SeaCornwall on 21/22 April and 4* training weekend on 21/22 July again with Richard. Cost to members for the whole weekend is only £50. The other two weekends with Richard, 3* Surf in March and rough water training next October are already fully booked. If there is enough interest – (another 6 people) – we may be able to persuade Richard to do another rough water weekend in the autumn of 2012. Anyone who would like training arranged should let the committee know and we'll see what we can do. Anyone wishing to go to the Cornish Symposium over the August Bank holiday should sign up ASAP as



Jill Franks



Eurion Brown



**Rough water training with
Richard Uren**

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there are only 25 places available.

The day after the AGM, Saturday November 12th, we paddled from Ringstead to Lulworth. There were 18 paddlers which we divided into two groups of 9. This was a most enjoyable day with some moments of entertainment. The trip report and photos are on the website. The weather on Sunday 13th was significantly worse and strong winds were forecast so we ended up paddling around Poole Harbour from Lake Pier instead of the planned Sandbanks to Ballard. It was definitely the correct decision as it was extremely rough outside the Harbour, but after the excellent paddle that we had enjoyed on the Saturday it was a bit of an anticlimax. However, it was the first time David had been in Poole Harbour so he enjoyed paddling in a new place despite having a heavy cold.

Meanwhile Bertie was leading our first white water trip of the winter down the River Barle. The trip report, courtesy of Dobby, is on the website.

On Sunday 20th November we had a trip planned around the Isle of Portland West to East. When the programme is devised a year ahead we obviously have no idea what the conditions will be like. This day was marginal. Poole Harbour club cancelled their trip round the Isle and paddled from Bowleaze instead. Our group had enough confident paddlers to cover the less experienced – that was the plan anyway! It turned out to be quite a lumpy paddle with rough water especially on the Eastern side. It was a great paddle and the trip report and images are on the website. A special mention for Kim who had a great weekend – nailing her roll at her first session at Hardyes pool and then paddling round the Bill the day after.

Other special mentions: Congratulations to Clive and Hilary West on becoming grandparents to Sophia. Good luck to Toby and Kim in their new home at Portland Bill. Congratulations to Teresa – BCU 4* Leader. Congratulations to Jackie – Level 2 Coach and to Toby who is now qualified to teach VHF courses. Also Ian and I have announced our engagement to be married next March.

We had our second pool session of the winter with our sea kayaks in the pool at Bridport Leisure Centre on 26th November. This is a great opportunity to practice skills, rescues and rolling in the safety and warmth of an indoor pool. The next booking we have at Bridport Leisure Centre is on Saturday January 21st. Please sign up on the thread on the Forum and send your money to Jill. The cost is £10 for one person and a boat, or £15 for 2 people and a boat. We are grateful to Ken for coming along to help coach.

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Playtime at Durdle Door



Portland Bill



The ring!



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Ian and I had a day's training with Will Lawrence at WOEC doing the FRST syllabus. The weather was truly appalling with winds up to 56 mph. We covered behind the pier at Castletown but were still blasted by very strong gusts. We laughed so much it hurt – especially when I fell in slow motion backwards out of an open canoe. It was good to have a few hours of full on rescue practice. We don't practice enough and have resolved that we will practice more. (Again)

Jill is collecting orders for Club Clothing. The clothing order form is on the website. Jill will be putting the order in very soon, so the stuff is ready for Christmas, so if you want anything do it now.

This Sunday 4th December there is a North Shore Santa run for the surfers. It's looking big so take a body board as well as your kayak! Details are on the website.

Jon Massey is running a Sea Paddle out of Sandsfoot on Sunday morning – 4th December, on the water 10.30am. The weather is not looking great but the paddle will still be on. This will be a good safe opportunity to paddle in poor weather – maybe with some roughness – in a relatively safe environment.

As mentioned above Saturday 17th December is the Christmas Do at the Royal Breakwater Hotel, Castletown, Portland. On Sunday 18th December we have a social paddle from Bowleaze to the Smugglers Inn at Osmington Mills. The idea is that non-paddling friends and family walk (or even drive) to the pub and meet us there for lunch at about 12.30.

The 2012 paddling programme will be up on the website in the next week or so. There are 2 local paddles scheduled for January – on the 7th and 29th. There is a rolling session at Bridport Pool on Saturday 26th. I am hoping that more of you will be volunteering to organise paddles in 2012. If anyone would like to volunteer to organise the local paddles on 7th or 8th Jan and 28 or 29th Jan please post on the forum. The local paddles are wherever you would like to go between Sandbanks and Lyme Regis – your choice. There is Guidance for Leaders on the members pages of the website under Resources. Don't forget – you get a £5 credit towards 2013 membership fee for every paddle organised, led and reported. (If you do more than 4 paddles then credits can go towards Club Kit or further reductions off training/rolling).



Rescue training...not going well!



IoPCC Clothing

All the best for the Festive Season to you all from me and Ian.

Barbara Browning
IoPCC Chairman