



ISLE OF PORTLAND CANOE CLUB

May 2010 Newsletter

After the Easter paddling in Poole Harbour five club members went to Pembrokeshire to do some BCU 4* leadership training with Nige Robinson. The first day was very windy but Nige found some relatively calm water to practice in. This, I understand, involved quite a lot of wet work. The second day was a little calmer and everyone enjoyed the coaching in a different area and from a different person. Clive, Hilary and John C stayed in Wales for an extra day and had a great paddle in the Solva area.



Greg Bell getting serious at Crackington Haven

Meanwhile IOPCC paddlers were spotted off the coast at Lands End in the week after Easter enjoying some calm sunny weather which made this potentially difficult water something of an anticlimax!

The weather in April has been quite settled and IOPCC club members are taking advantage of the longer days and calmer seas to get out paddling locally at short notice. Post on the forum if you would like some company on your impromptu paddles.

Thursday evening meetings at Sandsfoot are underway. We are trying to have at least one experienced member of the club present to offer advice and occasionally there may be someone there to do some coaching. Thursday evenings at Sandsfoot will continue through to September.

Ken has managed to arrange another four rolling sessions at West Dorset Leisure Centre in May/June. Please see the forum for details and apply to Clive West to book a place.

On April 30th a total of 11 paddlers and 3 non-paddlers camped at Trewiston Farm, near Wadebridge in North Cornwall over Mayday Bank Holiday. After weeks of settled weather with no rain it was inevitable that wet and windy arrived right on cue!

On Friday the early arrivals went to Crackington Haven intending to paddle to Boscastle. The Force 6 wind and rather large sea prevented this but Ian, Greg and Julie had fun in the surf at Crackington before enjoying a walk out to Cam Beak. In the evening the group convened in the Pityme Inn as rain stopped play on the campsite.

Saturday dawned rather grey and breezy. The group headed down to Daymer Bay and the skies brightened. We were treated to a sunny if rather breezy day and enjoyed some great paddling. The rain started again as we drove into the campsite so once more we had to go to the pub in the evening. This time the Fourways Inn at St. Minver.

Sundays paddle had been decided by the forecast Force 7 winds. We launched at Wadebridge at 09.30

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John Miller surfing at Trevoze Head.



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and paddled up the River Camel to the tidal limit. We then paddled down with the tide to Rock and then crossed the estuary to Padstow. We rested here while the tide turned and then paddled (or sometimes walked) back to Wadebridge with the tide. In the evening Jill fed everyone and then we played a game of 'how many people can we fit in Jill's tent?' (Jill has a tent heater!)



**IOPCC on the River Camel
estuary**

Monday morning was bright and sunny but once more very windy. We went down to Port Quin and had a look at the sea state. It was much too rough and windy to paddle so we walked the inland route to Port Isaac for breakfast (or a cream tea in Geoff's case) and then walked back along the spectacular coast path.

I think everyone enjoyed the weekend despite the weather preventing us from paddling where we had planned to. We will return another time and explore this fantastic coastline.

The next Club paddle is for everyone and is from West Bay to Charmouth on 16th May. Please post on the forum if you intend to join in. The weekend of 22nd-23rd May is a surf-kayaking weekend at Bude. Once again please see the details on the forum and tell Bertie if you intend to join. Everyone is welcome to come along including non-paddling family and friends. Weather and sea state will determine what we can do but there should be some sea paddling as well as surfing.

Early in June there is another weekend trip. This is a sea kayaking overnight trip and is suitable for more experienced paddlers. Please see the forum for details.

The weather is improving and the water is warming up. There is plenty of paddling planned and we hope to encourage everyone to join in and get out there. Keep watching the forum for trips that may occur at short notice as well as the pre-arranged club outings.

Barbara Browning
IOPCC Chairman



**'Dicky' Bird running a bit short
of water on the estuary!**