



# RAPID TIMES

## Welcome to Rapid Times, Slea Paddlers Newsletter

To help keep all our members informed of what is happening within the club, we are reintroducing the Slea Paddlers monthly newsletter, namely the 'Rapid Times'.

We will cover topics such as up and coming events and a look back at the month just gone. For this edition, we will also confirm the new pool prices for 2016 and give you a bit of an insight to the 3 lakes challenge.

If there are any topics you would like us to include for future newsletters then please let me know, as all feedback is very welcome.

## The month that was known as January

Well the first month of the year, sees the renewal of club membership. For those that have renewed thank you and for those new members a big welcome to the club. With our existing members who have not yet renewed, just a gentle reminder to put that pen to paper, either posting or handing in your membership forms and fees at a club event.

During January the club was also able to launch their 3 new Dynamo kayaks. These have been especially purchased for our younger members to use in the pool and will be key to their ongoing development. The feedback from those using the boats has been very positive.



Towards the end of the month the club organised a River trip on the Huntingdon Loop. The weather was very kind to those paddling, with a barmy 13 degrees and sunny skies. It seemed to take no time to make it to the first portage and then lunch. A small weir allowed our lone kayaker to have a bit of a play, before turning onto the home bound stretch of the trip. Even though the water was too cold for taking a dip, our Chairman did nearly take a early bath, when getting back in his canoe. The picture below shows him testing his new pump to get out some of the water. I believe there is some footage of Dane's near dunking, so watch this space as we may be able to post something on the clubs Facebook page.



## New Prices for Pool Sessions

Below are the club price list for 2016. The only change is for the pool sessions and this was purely to help the club recover the costs incurred for hiring the facilities.



### **SLEA PADDLERS PRICES** **2016**

#### **POOL SESSIONS**

- £5 First person and each person after.
- £15 Maximum payment for family (4 people).

#### **CLUB SESSIONS**

- £5 Per person who requires any club kit.
- £3 Per person who uses personal kit.
- £12 Maximum payment for family (4 people).
- £10 Scout group fee (per person).

#### **RIVER TRIPS**

- £6 Per person who requires any club kit.
- £4 Per person who uses personal kit.
- £12 Maximum payment for family (4 people).



## What's coming up in February

We start February with a pool session on 6th, then there is the following;

### **13th February**

Soar Down River Race, Barrow on Soar

- This is not a club event, however it something that is good fun, if you have your own boat and a competitive spirit.
- The race is open to all levels of paddlers, check in at 9am at the Boat House Public House, between 9am and 10am. The race is timed, with a staggered start with an expected duration of 15 minutes. More details are shown on the club calendar.

Pool Session.

### **27th February**

Pool Session.

### **28th February**

River Trip to Slenningford Mill (North Yorkshire).

- This trip is different what was originally published on the club site. However, Slenningford is a regular trip for the club and suitable for 2 star / Discover and above. It is a great river to test out your skills on moving water. Even though this is predominately a river for kayaks, those wanting use a canoe can paddle on bottom section.

## 3 Lakes Challenge

The challenge is to paddle the longest lakes in Wales, England and Scotland. It is a test of endurance, but can be suited to all motivations, it could be a personal challenge or just something to enjoy with other people.

The club have organised specific dates for trips to each of the lakes, to enable any members who want to complete the challenge.

The 1st lake within the club calendar will be;

**Lake Windermere** (Lake District) - 9th to 10th April.

The trip will take place on the 9th April.

Lake Windermere is a one way trip of 11 miles, where we will arrange a shuttle with the cars to ensure everyone starts and finishes in the right place and has transport back to the campsite. The approximate paddling time is about 4 hours.

This is not just a trip for canoes though, as the kayaks will be testing out their skills and having fun on moving water in the area.

Next up is;

**Loch Awe** (Scotland) - 28th to 31st May.

This is the longest club trip to date and due to the travelling required we have planned this across the 2nd bank holiday weekend of May.

"This truly unique challenge will take you on an adventure to some of the most beautiful and scenic inland paddling locations in the UK. The combination of travelling over 380 miles on land and 43 miles on the water will put even the most experienced paddler to the test".

- Go Canoeing web site

Not only is this furthest to travel, it is also the longest paddle of the 3 lakes, with a testing one way route of 25 miles. Due to the length of the paddle, it will require an overnight camp. The approximate paddling time is 9 hours.

The final lake is;

**Bala Lake** (Wales) - 1st to 2nd October.

We finish the challenge with the shortest trip of the lot, a 2 way trip totalling 7 miles. The approximate paddling time is around two and half hours.

While the canoes look to complete the challenge, the kayaks will be testing out their skills on moving water in the area.

There will be more information on the individual trips as they get closer. Even though we are offering the 3 lakes challenge in its entirety, you can just do one or two of them if that is what you would prefer.

## Finally for this newsletter.....

Our coaches don't just sit back and relax when they are not paddling. They also attend courses in their spare time as they continue to hone their skills and meet the coaching requirements of British Canoeing. That said it doesn't mean they can't have a good time.

