



RAPID TIMES

Welcome to Octobers Rapid Times

The month of September has seen us hold the last couple of river sessions of the year and move inside to the pool, it also saw us at the Nene White Water centre for the annual surf competition. Plus as it has come so close to this newsletter, we will cover the clubs trip to Llangollen in Wales, which saw canoeing and kayaking across both the Saturday and Sunday, while 2 paddlers were looking to complete the last leg of the 3 lakes challenge. We then look forward to the rest of October and some club announcements.

The Month that was September

We saw the last 2 river sessions for this year, held at Tattershall Bridge. Both sessions were well attended and we finished with a number of assessments. The assessments gave us a chance to determine what needs to be worked on at during the pool sessions over the winter and sign off paddlers for achieving certain levels of performance against the British Canoeing Paddlesport structure.

We would like to congratulate Stephen Walker, Rob Huckle, Mandy Huckle and Sally Darling on achieving their 1 star for open canoe.

As the river sessions came to an end we saw the first of the pool sessions. The format remains the same in the club holding 2 sessions with an hour for each. The sessions are held at Lincoln Academy pool and are limited to 11 paddlers due to the number of boats we can have on the water at one time. The first group start at 5pm with the 2nd at 6pm. Invitations for the 2 groups come out from OSM a week prior to the planned session. We would ask that you use OSM to indicate your attendance to help us plan for the number of people attending, however this by no means commits you to attending.

Mid September saw the club travelling to the Nene White Water centre in Northampton. This is a great course for beginners and therefore it is open to all members. It was also the location of our annual surf competition which is run by our youth committee. We had a good turnout for the initial coaching session run by Kevin. In all there were 6 paddlers in the session, where they ran different sections of course to get used to the moving water. This all worked up to running the entire course a couple of times, including the big wave half way down. While the session was underway our experienced paddlers were playing on the course, trying out and enhancing their skills. Everyone had a great time and you could really see the progress that people had made over the last 12 months. We had a couple of swimmers with our experienced and not so experienced paddlers, but all left with smiles on their faces.



Annual Trip to Llangollen



Llangollen is one of the key dates in the club calendar and keenly anticipated by the members that have been previously. As a club we stay in a bunk house, which allows everyone to mingle and share their canoeing and kayaking stories from the weekend. It is a reasonable journey time of around 3 hours from Sleaford, but is always well worth the trip. The location also offers varying opportunities for both canoes and kayaks.

On the Saturday the kayaks went off to paddle the River Tryweryn on a section that runs through the Welsh National White Water course, while canoes settled for a little more sedate paddle on the Shropshire Union Canal with a finish going across Pontcysyllte Aqueduct which carries the canal some 126 foot



above the River Dee. At one stage they nearly lost Barry after he accidentally threw his boat and his paddle into the canal. This meant he had to do his best canoe whisper impression to bring it back to the side. For the kayaks they had good water levels allowing them to do some surfing and eddy hopping down the white water course, with only one capsize, who's identify will remain nameless. But he did have some time during the evening to review the footage to see where he may have gone wrong.

On the Sunday, the kayaks went off to paddle the River Dee, starting at Horseshoe Falls with a planned finish in Llangollen. The route had plenty of white water to keep the paddlers occupied, and gave the likes of Josh Stuart, Aaron Comfort and Greg Darling the opportunities to test out their skills for the 2nd day running with lots of time to play for everyone. The canoes were undertaking Lake Bala, which was the setting for the last of the 3 lake challenges for Brian and Harrison with Barry and Miriam keeping them company, on the shortest of the 3 trips. The conditions on the water were lovely and calm, well what they could see of it on arrival, as pretty much over half of the 2 way journey it was covered in fog. After just 2 hours and 15 minutes of paddling the 8 miles had been completed and they were greeted with beautiful sunshine.





The 3 lakes challenge has been a great event for the club, especially with Loch Awe which is likely to be in the calendar for next year. Well done to all those that have paddled the lakes over the last 6 months. In addition to Brian and Harrison, we have seen Miriam, Evie, Amy and Barry, complete 2 of the lakes to date, while Dane, Boggitt and Jon have the 1 lake to their name.

What's Coming Up for October

The month of October is normally an important one for the club in topping up the old bank account, as it sees us supporting the Rat Race in Nottingham. However, this year due to the water quality at Holme Pierrepont the organisers had to cancel that part of the event at late notice. The club did receive a donation as a gesture of goodwill from the organisers and obviously, even though it is disappointing they are ensuring the safety of the participants. The club would like to thank all the people that had put their names forward in giving up their Saturday to help out and we apologise for any inconvenience caused for the late cancellation.

The remainder of the month schedule is based in the pool on the following dates;

- 15th October - 5pm (1st session) and 6pm (2nd session).
- 22nd October - 5pm (1st session) and 6pm (2nd session).

Other Key Club Dates for the Diary

12th November

Club AGM

The annual meeting is a get together of the club committee and all members, to share a summary of the key areas such as the finances, membership, paddler development, etc and celebrate the year of paddling as a whole, along with the awards presentation which will include paddler of the year. The event will be held at the Sleaford Scout Hut, starting at 7pm. We usually commence the evening with all the AGM formalities and then have the annual potluck supper, where we can all relax and get to mingle. More details will be in next months newsletter, along with a separate email.

20th November

River Trip - Huntington Loop

The trip is open to all paddlers, with the likes of canoes and kayaks able to take part. This is a good paddle, with no major portages and takes place on the Great River Ouse. Again we will give more details next month.

Committee News

The club are pleased to announce that Stephen Walker will be picking up the role of Treasurer. Stephen has been a member of club for a few years and recently passed his 1 star canoe, however we suspect his love still remains with the kayak. Where there is a new person stepping into a role, it means we have to say goodbye to someone and in this case it is Beverly Russell who is handing over the reins. Bev has been a brilliant Treasurer and supporter of the club over the years and has ensured that our chairman have remained on the straight and narrow. The club and the committee would like to thank Bev for all her hard work and commitment during her time in the role and we hope to see her on the bankside every now and then.

At the AGM we will also see Patricia Matthews stepping down as the club Secretary. Trish has been the club Secretary for a number of years and has been amazing in keeping the committee organised, while also handling the correspondence to the numerous outside parties we interact with. Again the club and committee would like to thank Trish for all her time and support over the years and look forward to seeing her down on the river paddling with the club. The role of Secretary is currently unfilled and therefore the committee are looking for any of our members to consider whether they can spare some time to undertake this position. If you are interested and want to find out any further details please contact Dane (Club Chairman).



TINY RAPIDS

Presenting of the Duck Award

If you are not aware, there is a club tradition of presenting an award of a big yellow duck to the best paddler or swimmer during specific events across the year.

During the last month, the duck has been handed out more times than ever before. The poor thing probably doesn't know what is going on. It just gets settled in one place and it is being moved on again.

The 1st presentation took place at the Nene White Water course, when the proud recipient was Jonathan King. Jonathan had paddled brilliantly during the day and even though he came out a couple of times, he still had a smile on his face.

Next up was Josh Stuart, who picked up the award for the 1st days paddle on the River Tryweryn. It was decided by those paddling with Josh he had shown lots of skill and commitment in tackling what can be a tricky course.

We saw the club break from tradition in presenting the duck to Archie Wardell, for his recent charitable exploits where he undertook 'Brave the Shave' in the name of cancer research. He had got his head shaved by his school teacher on the day of travelling to Llangollen. We can announce that Archie at the last count had collected £225.

Well done to all 3 of you, the award is very well deserved.



Well Done Harrison

Tiny Rapids would like to say congratulations to Harrison Wardell for achieving the 3 lakes challenge. Harrison is the 1st member of the club to complete this challenge and even had to put up with his dad paddling with him on each of the trips.

Surf Competition

The surf competition was well attended by the junior members at the Nene White Water course. Thank you to Greg Darling for organising the competition. The results of the competition and awards will be announced during the AGM in November.