



# Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club

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## Newsletter

**March/April 2010**

### Committee Meeting

The Club at the moment holds six committee meetings every year, and although they are called Committee Meetings, any member can attend or bring up points that they wish to raise. At the Moment the Committee Meetings are held in the Play Drome, and start at 7.30pm. Remember this is your Club and it is your input that will help to make it better, so we hope to see you at one of the meetings. The next meeting is on **Monday the 12 of April** and you are more than welcome to raise any point that you wish to raise.

At the Last Committee Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February it was decided to give £20.00 to any Club member who is booked on a Canoe or Kayak course for which the club cannot provide it-self. For example this £20.00 could be used towards a 3\* Open Canoe Course or the Foundation Safety and Rescue Test. The Club also currently funds members to the same amount who wish to do any Canoe or Kayak Coaching course.

### Newsletter Deadline

Any information for the next Newsletter must either be sent to Ron or Rab by the 18<sup>th</sup> of April for the May/June Issue.

### Container Painting

The Club would like as many members as possible to come down to the Outdoor Container and paint it over the weekend of the 24/25 of April. Meeting time is 10 am on both days. Remember to wear old clothes!

## Last Pool Session

Please note that the last pool session will be held on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April which is going to be a re scheduled Christmas “Gala Day”. The first of the Loch Lomond Outdoor Sessions will start on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. The meeting time for the whole of the Loch Lomond Summer series of evenings is 6.30pm at the Stores.

## Pool Sessions

Over The last few years we have run skill sessions in the pool. These sessions were aimed at everyone, from beginner to advanced paddler to practice their skills and observe variations on stroke applications. We are covering all the various strokes covered by the BCU up to and including the current 2\* Award and beyond and they will run through to the end of April. **As you may be aware there is only a limited amount of instructors at the poolside each night, it is therefore up to you, the individual member to seek advice on how to develop your skills.** Ask the instructors at the poolside for help, that is what they are there for.

These pool sessions will be beneficial to anyone attending any of the assessment that is planned over the summer. Check the Diary to see what strokes are being covered that night.

## Warning!

It has been brought to our attention that the book “**Scottish Sea Kayaking – Fifty Great Sea Kayak Voyages**” by **Doug Cooper and George Reid** has some discrepancies regarding some of their tidal information. I would now double check any tidal planning rather than using just this book for your trip planning.

The trip Julia and myself completed around the Mull of Galloway last year was using this book as the main source of tidal information going around this bit of coastline, expecting it to be sound information! The result was that we hit the Mull of Galloway tide race at full flood, rather than at the planned slack water! The speed of the tide race was also out; by about 5 knots faster, 9 knots as opposed to the 4 knots that was published in the book! I would therefore use this book as a basic guide rather than as a Bible for your tidal and trip planning. We have been warned!

## Coast Guard Visit

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, the Club was trying to arrange a visit to the Coast Guard Rescue and Co-Ordination Centre in Greenock. Although they are still technically still on strike we have managed to arrange a visit on **Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March at 11 am**. The

Club has had a visit to this centre several years ago and it was very informative to say the least. This visit should last around one and a half to two hours.

For anyone wishing to go on a short paddle after the visit, you park almost right on top of a slipway and small beach at the Royal West Yacht Club!

Anyone interested in attending this Visit must give me their full names by Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at the Poolside the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, like HMS Gannet NO NAME = No ENTRY! There is also a limit of just 16 members that can attend this visit, and it is a first 16 full names that I have will be going! You can either give me your name at the poolside or even by just e-mailing me at [rabburns63@googlemail.com](mailto:rabburns63@googlemail.com). We plan to **meet at the Stores for 10.15 am** and leave at 10.30 am. This should allow everyone to sort out car share or load boats. Anyone that is planning to do the Solway Firth Paddle on the Sunday, we will probably leave from the Greenock after the visit.

## Club Coach Development Funding Award

The SCA have awarded us £250 towards a White water safety & rescue course to be held on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> March. River paddling in the club has been neglected over the last few years but thanks to our Inland Coaches Sandy and Graham it's now enjoying a revival.

Sandy and Graham will attend the course along with 4 others, David, James, Shona and Ian. These four will be taking Inland 3 star this year and hopefully start on the Coaching scheme.

The course will be run by Jim Gibson and based near Loch Awe.

## For Sale

Set of "J" bars, steel with foam padding. See Andy Ligethy

Set of roof bars to fit car with roof rails. See Ron

## Trips

**Firth of Forth:** The first Club paddle of the year was a planned trip to the Firth of Forth, but due to the amount of snow that the Edinburgh area had just received plan "C" came into operation. (Plan "B" was a trip to the Lake of Menteith, but this was also cancelled due to the fact that there was about 2000 people walking and skating over the Lake!) We therefore opted to go to Loch Lomond.

Just four members turned up for this paddle, Colin, Donald, Ron and me, and the weather was bitterly cold. Leaving from Luss we paddling over to the narrows where a Robin landed on Ron's boat and from there it started to jump all over not just Ron's boat but everyone else's. This wildlife spectacle lasted for around ten minutes before it got bored with us and then flew away. As we

proceeded towards the South end of the Narrows we were stopped by the thickness of the ice and had to retreat.

We then went around Inchconnachan and made our way over to Inchcailloch the entrance to the West Bay was hampered also by thick ice, but we eventually made it ashore for a very quick bite to eat before returning back to Luss. On the return trip we even saw a Kingfisher along one of the shore lines. This turned out to be a very, very cold trip, but at least we managed to get out.

**Upper River Clyde:** This trip was cancelled due to forecasted very high winds.

**Loch Lomond - Open Canoe Skills:** This was very well attended given the weather conditions which to say the least; was very cold. We had a look at mainly forward paddling, in both solo and doubles, to give everyone a chance to feel the differences in the handling the Canoes in different wind conditions. Given the forecasted higher winds for the evening the Night Paddle was cancelled.

**HMS Gannet:** The planning of this visit took just over 6 months to organise with various e-mail and phone calls, going back and forth all this time. Once the visit was confirmed, we got a date that the proposed trip was less than two weeks away! So hopefully everyone that was interested in going managed to go.

HMS Gannet is the Royal Navy base for their Search and Rescue Flight of 3 Sea King Helicopters located at Prestwick Airport. Eighteen Club members turned up (Around 1/3 of the Club!) for this visit which to say the least was very interesting and defiantly very informative.

The visit started of with a talk from Major Devereux, one of the Pilots bases at HMS Gannet. He explained the various items of equipment that they use and the basic procedures that the use in a Rescue flight. One of the first surprising things that he mentioned was that they use an "A.A." Road Map for basic navigation and then use standard 1/50 000 scale O.S. Maps for finer navigation!

Also surprising, from a search point of view was that they only had their Mk 1 eye ball for daylight hours! For night time the only other forms of finding people out in the water or hills was two spotlights and two pairs of Image Intensifying Glasses!

There was so much to learn and take in from this one visit alone which has also provoked just as many questions after the visit as during the visit, and certainly far too much to put down in this Newsletter. This was certainly one of the most interesting visits that we have undertaken. And I think that everyone certainly benefited from this visit.

**River Ayr:** On a very cold Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February just four members of the Club turned up to paddle a section of Grade 1-2 of the River Ayr. The access point to the river was at the bridge at the village of Stair and the get out was at Auchincruive College giving a distance of just under 15km. This turned out to be a very beautiful section of the River, but was let down by a severe lack of water! This section of river would be excellent if the water level was much higher and definitely worth doing again. I wonder if Suki will bring her dog again.

**Loch Fyne:** On Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, yet another very, very cold day nine club members headed of for Inveraray for a paddle. As an indication of just how cold it was, from the islands at Luss, south to

Balloch most of Loch Lomond was covered in ice, including all the open water! Even the upper reaches of Loch Fyne were completely covered in ice. The put in was at the small village of Minard from there we went south to view Minard Castle and the paddled all the way up to up to Inveraray.

## **Paddles to look forward to.**

On Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February there is a short Night Paddle on Loch Ard meeting time at the store is 6.30pm. This will only go ahead if the wind speed is a maximum of Force 2 and a relatively clear sky, (As of the 21<sup>st</sup> of Feb the entire Loch Ard is still ice covered!, so it might change to Loch Lomond.) both options will give us an absolutely fantastic paddle.

On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March there will be a Grade "A" paddle in the Firth of Clyde starting at the small village of Dunure and going North past the stunning Heads of Ayr and up to Troon a distance of just over 20km. Meeting time at the store for this trip is 8.30am.

(PLAN B: For the above trip there will be a short paddle on the Lake of Menteith, if the winds are forecasted between a Force 4/5 on the day.)

The next sea trip is up to the Moray Firth Area this is also a Grade "A" trip. We plan to leave on the Friday night and stay in a Hostel in the Inverness area on the Friday Night, Saturday will be out on the Moray Firth looking for Dolphins, there is also some excellent coastal paddling around this area as well. On Saturday Night we will return to the Hostel. The Sunday will be a short paddle, but certainly one of the best we did last year that that is to the Aigas Gorge. Make sue you have your Cameras handy for this trip. I need names, plus a £20 deposit for the Hostel by Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. Meeting time at the stores is 7pm on the Friday Night for this trip.

(PLAN B: For the above trip, the trip will be cancelled on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> if the weather is looking really bad. If not to bad we have the option of Loch Ness depending on the weather.)

On Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> David Voss is running a re-scheduled Christmas "Mince Pie Paddle" on Loch Lomond. Meeting at the Outdoor Stores Container for 10 am, contact David for further details of this trip

On Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March there is a Grade "B" paddle on the Inner part of the Solway Firth. The start point for this trip will be at Gretna and finishing at Sandness. This will be one of the very few days of the year then this stretch of water can be paddled due to the tidal conditions (Mainly due to a severe lack of water!) As a result, timing is very important and therefore we will be leaving on the Saturday Afternoon to set up the Shuttle for this rarely done paddle.

(PLAN B: For the above trip will be decided on the Saturday depending on the weather.)

On Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> there will be a Night Paddle on Loch Lomond leaving from Balmaha. Meeting time at the Stores is 6.30pm. This trip will only go ahead if the wind speed is a maximum of Force 2 and a relatively clear sky, which will give us an absolutely fantastic paddle.

On Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April we have a "Sea Paddle" that will go from Perth town Centre to Broughty Ferry just past Dundee. This is down as a Grade "A" trip although the actual distance is 38km (Around 23miles). This is due to the speed of the current that will carry us down this part of the Tay, plus we should have the tide in our favour as well. Meeting time for this trip is 8am at the Stores or 9.30am at the Bell's Sports Centre in Perth.

(Plan B: Due to the relatively sheltered area of this trip there will be no Plan B on this occasion.)

The next trip is up to the Ullapool area of the West Coast on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of April, at this moment in time there are two basic plans. Plan "A", if the weather is looking very good is travelling up to Scourie and then paddling up to Kinlochbervie past the island of Handa. If the weather is looking okay then Plan "B" is to Paddle from Gairloch to Laide and into Loch Ewe. We will be leaving on the Friday night and meeting at the Stores for 6.30pm. This will be a wild camping trip. And this is a Grade "B" trip.

Into May and on the 4<sup>th</sup> we see the first of the Loch Lomond evening sessions starting.

## Barra

The Big Club trip this year is going to Barra and its outlying island's, this will take place over the week of the Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> to the Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of May. Departing Glasgow at 9.30am on the Friday morning this will give us plenty of time to get to Oban and pack the Kayaks, and then park the cars. (The cars will be left in Oban over the week.) The Ferry (Cost £22.40 return.) then departs Oban at 13.40 and arrives at Castlebay in Barra at 18.30. This will give us an option of either a short paddle to a wild camp site, or we can stay the night in the Hostel on the Friday Night. This will then allow us a nice early start the following day to start paddling down towards Mingulay and Barra Head and then returning to Barra, if time allows we plan to paddle around Barra as well. The total trip should take 4 days to complete, plus we have an additional extra 2 bad weather days planned into the trip.

Given the location of this trip and the fact that there are tide races up to 4 knots in the area that we are intending to paddle, this will be a Grade B/C trip. There will also be a Plan "B" trip if the weather looks unsuitable. Where that will be, will depend on the weather!

If you want more information on this trip please see Rab as soon as possible. [rabburns63@googlemail.com](mailto:rabburns63@googlemail.com) **I will need to know everyone who is interested in going on the Barra trip by the 16<sup>th</sup> of March** to start booking accommodation and Ferries.

There will be other trips planned over the period of March and April, but at the moment I do not have any further information on these, so please check at the Pool side for the latest information.

So hopefully the above information is enough to "WET" your appetite for a paddle and we will hopefully see you out on the water.

# Diary

| Date                | Location   | Grade            | Contact      |
|---------------------|--|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Feb</b>          |  |                  |              |
| <b>28 Sunday</b>    | <b>Night Paddle – Loch Ard</b>                           | <b>All</b>       | <b>Rab</b>   |
| <b>March</b>        |  |                  |              |
| 2 Tuesday           | Skills - Sweep & Stern Rudder                            |                  |              |
| <b>6 Sat</b>        | <b>Firth of Clyde.</b>                                   | <b>A</b>         | <b>Rab</b>   |
| <b>7 Sun</b>        | <b>River Trip</b>  | <b>Grade 2/3</b> | <b>Sandy</b> |
| 9 Tuesday           | Skills – Manoeuvring in confined spaces                  |                  |              |
| <b>13/14</b>        | <b>Moray Firth</b>                                       | <b>A</b>         | <b>Rab</b>   |
| 16 Tuesday          | Skills – Draw Stroke                                     |                  |              |
| <b>21 Sun</b>       | <b>Mince Pie Paddle</b>                                  | <b>All</b>       | <b>David</b> |
| 23 Tuesday          | Skills – Scull and Draw                                  |                  |              |
| <b>27 Sat</b>       | <b>Coast Guard Rescue and Co-Ordination Centre Visit</b> | <b>All</b>       | <b>Rab</b>   |
| <b>27/28 Sun</b>    | <b>Inner Solway Firth</b>                                | <b>B</b>         | <b>Rab</b>   |
| 30 Tuesday          | Skills – Low Brace                                       |                  |              |
| <b>31 Wednesday</b> | <b>Night Paddle – Loch Lomond</b>                        | <b>All</b>       | <b>Rab</b>   |
| <b>April</b>        |  |                  |              |
| 6 Tuesday           | Skills – High Brace                                      |                  |              |
| <b>11 Sun</b>       | <b>Perth to Dundee</b>                                   | <b>A</b>         | <b>Rab</b>   |
| <b>12 Monday</b>    | <b>Committee Meeting</b>                                 | <b>All</b>       | <b>Colin</b> |
| 13 Tuesday          | Skills – Sculling for Support                            |                  |              |
| <b>17/18</b>        | <b>Ullapool Area</b>                                     | <b>B</b>         | <b>Rab</b>   |
| <b>18 Sun</b>       | <b>River Trip</b>  | <b>Grade 2/3</b> | <b>Sandy</b> |
| 20 Tuesday          | Rescues- Kayaks  |                  |              |
| <b>24/25</b>        | <b>Container Painting</b>                                | <b>All</b>       | <b>David</b> |

27 Tuesday Last Pool Night – Gala Night David

**May**

4 Tuesday First night Loch Lomond - Trip

7 - 15 Barra Trip B/C Rab

**Please remember to phone up the night before a sea trip to check up for the trip status. (Between 7pm-9pm) If you require equipment or a lift, could you please contact the trip organiser at least a week prior to the trip?**

**Remember to print and pin this list up, or mark the dates into your Diary.**

Thanks Rab Burns