**Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club**

**Newsletter**

**September/October 2012**

Hopefully there will be a bit more info in this Newsletter to inform everyone what has been happening within the Club over the Last few months. We will hopefully also give you a bit more information on what paddles are coming up and any other relevant information that is useful for the members.

What is nice to see is that there are now a lot more members being proactive in planning and running trips for other members, which now means the Club is a lot more active, which is always good to see. You just need to have a look at the Diary section of the newsletter!

**DCKC Paddle Festival Sun 9th Sept.**

**All welcome. Family and Friends**

The Clubs Paddle Festival has been arranged for Sunday 9th Sept and running between 10am and 4pm and will be held in Balloch Castle Country Park at the Old Boathouse and Slipway. The boat house now accommodates a small Snack bar and Toilet block.

DCKC activities will be part of the Get Active Festival on Loch Lomond & “Great Outdoors” being held over that weekend. Hopefully it will attract potential new member however there will be plenty of activities for a fun day out.

From DCKC there will be Competitions, Races and Have a Shot Canoe and Kayak taster sessions. Other activities include Golf, water Skiing, Fitness testing, Aquaspheres, Dances shows, Archery, Mountain Bike skills and more.

If you can afford some free time it would be great to see you down there to help out. Please contact Bill Davis, Shona or Bernie Tolland for any additional detail.

**Pool Sessions**

Please note that the Pool Sessions start back on Tuesday the 4th of September at 8pm. So get back to the pool and brush up on your skills, and find out what has been happening in the paddling world.

**Club Fees**

Club Memberships are now due, so if you can please pay Shona your Club dues as soon as possible. Please note at the moment there might be an increase in the Membership Fee’s after the AGM. So if you can pay your membership prior to the AGM you can save a few pounds, you know it make sense.

**AGM**

The Clubs AGM will be held on the 22nd of October at 7pm. The location for the AGM is in the Playdrome. Please come along to find out what the Club Committee Members have been up to and how the Club is developing. If **YOU** have any points you wish to bring up, good or bad, please inform Phil Hyde or Bill Davis. Please remember this is your Club, so why not have your input into it.

**Past Trips**

**Sugar Boat:** On the Tuesday the 24th of July we had a short trip out to the “Sugar Boat”, not far from Helensburgh. This is a quite an exceptional ship wreck as most of the ship is intact, even though the ship sank nearly 40 years ago. There were over 10 paddlers on the water that night. And with the sea flat calm we even managed to paddle into some bits of the wreck!

**Skye:** Over the weekend of the 11/12 of August 8 paddlers turned up for a truly fantastic paddle, on one of the great Skye classic paddles, around McCloud’s Maidens and Neist Point. However we did have a tragic incident right at the beginning of the trip when we were setting up the car shuttle, Alf subjected four innocent members of the club to nearly 20 minutes of “The Alexander Brothers” and “Sidney Devine”. They are all still undergoing therapy!

With the weather forecasting light winds and plenty of sunshine we set of on Saturday morning. Departed from Harlosh and paddled out to the various small islands within Loch Bracadale. Even on those small islands, some of the caves were impressive. These caves were only the warm up for what we were to see after Lunch, which was spent on one of the Islands.

After Lunch we paddle over to the west side of Loch Bracadale, the caves became increasingly more impressive, as did the arches and sea stacks. However as we rounded the headland of Idrigill Point the two magnificent sea stacks called “Macleod’s Maidens” came into view, and at the same time the light wind we had dropped to zero and the Minch was like a sheet of glass. This could not get any better.

For those people who do not know this area, it is a very committing paddle with only two possible landing spots over 30km of coastline, and it has to be calm to get into these two bays. This coastline also boasts some fantastic cliffs, some towering over 700 feet in height. This is not an area where you want some thing to go wrong.

Around 6-7 km from our campsite, Misha shouted out a few times, and then stated that “I think that I am sinking!” This was not the comment I was expecting! Having looked over his boat we could see that the stern of his kayak was almost completely under water. This required some quick thinking with us being so far from any point of landing. So the first thought was to get the cameras out to take photos of Misha and his sinking kayak, 6-7 km from the nearest landing! After a while Ron and Barry helped to pump out Misha rear hatch, while everyone else took more photos. It turns out that after exploring a cave Misha was reverse paddling out and his skeg hit a rock which was then pushed through his hull thus puncturing the hull of the kayak. This was just sheer bad luck for Misha. Where the damage was on the kayak, we could not do an effective repair at sea, so Misha paddled the remaining 6-7 km on to our camping spot where we would have a good look at the damage in the morning.

For the remainder of the paddle Misha made a remarkable pace in his kayak. I wonder why! On reaching the bay where our campsite was we found that we had three problems, first, it was low tide, which was not a problem in it’s self. The second problem was that the rocks that were uncovered at low tide were like “ice”, everyone had to be extremely careful moving over the rocks, and in fact we opted to unload the kayaks right on the shore line before moving the boats up. The last problem was the **MIDGES!!!!!!** The Midges were waiting to pounce right on the shoreline

Before we managed to get the Midges Hoods on we were eaten alive. Once everyone had their tents up, a slight breeze got up which cleared the Midges very quickly. The”Alfa” male of the group, Ron as usual managed to conjure up a fantastic fire from almost nothing.

The following morning was a very relaxed affair, with a difference of almost 3 hours between Low water and the changing of the tidal streams around Neist Point. So we had waited around for two hours and caught the sun while the tide came in before we launched to catch Neist Point at slack water. The wind had picked up to a good Force 3-4 which even at slack water made Neist Point a bit more interesting. Once we rounder the point the water calmed down as we paddled to our get out point just a few kilometres away.

Was the trip justified in going all the way up to Skye just for the weekend? I think you just need ask those who were there. This was by far my best paddle this year. (Well, apart from those poor soles who had to suffer Alf’s musical taste during the shuttle?)

 **Lake of Menteith:** On Tuesday the 14th of August we had a short paddle on the Lake of Menteith, Scotland’s only Lake! An excellent turn out of 16 members turned up for this paddle in fantastic weather given how much rain we had just a few hours prior to getting on the water. We even managed to have a quick exploration of the Priory on the Island. Graham even managed to pass out a large box of “Jelly Babies”; we all needed the energy for this big paddle.

**The Sound of Luing:** On the 25/26 of August, again the weather just managed to hold out for another classic paddle in the Sound of Luing area. With light winds of a F2-3 we set of from Easdale with ebbing tide south to “The Gray Dogs” and even had time for a small play here before reaching Corryyvreckan. We reach here spot on slack water at 1730, which was a bit to calm to be of any real interest!

From the Corryyvreckan we took the flood tide back up to the Garvellachs, and camped here for the night. There were seven members in this trip and surprisingly only I and Ron had been out to the Garvellachs before, so that was really good.

The following morning we got on the water a bit latter than planned to allow members to have a bit more of a look around the Island. We then took the last of the flood tide back to Easdale, but having time to stop of at Belnahua about 30—40 minutes before slack water. At Belnahua we had time for a very quick bite to eat, and watch a yacht struggle and then give up against the tide around the Island. From Belnahua we paddled straight back to Easdale for as planned an early finish.

**Trips to look forward to**

On the 1st of September we have a planned Grade “A” trip to Holy Island on the South East side of Arran. We are planning to meet at the stores for 0730, or meeting at Ardrossan for 0845. The Ferry departs at 0945 once at Brodick; we paddle south along some wild landscape before reaching Holy Island. We should time to explore Holy Island and also for those who wish, time to climb to the summit for an outstanding view. Total paddle distance is around 21km. The planned return ferry is at 1800, we should therefore be back in the Glasgow area for around 2000.

On the 15th of September, Bill is running a gentle paddle with beautiful scenery at Loch Lubnaig. Meet at outdoor container at 9 am. Phone Bill (Friday night on or after 19.30 hrs) to confirm trip is on.

The next trip is over the Glasgow September weekend; the plan is that we may be departing on the Thursday night, at the moment the plan is to go over to Islay or the Shiants weather depending. If the weather is not good enough to do these extended trips there may be a trip for just a day or two so please keep in touch.

Andy Ligethy is planning a two day trip on the 29th/30th of September. Setting off from Tayinloan and paddling across to Gigha, then going around the Island, and wild camping overnight. We will need more time to organise this trip so contact Andrew (at least a week before **and** on Friday 28th) to confirm trip is on.

Shona is planning another trip down the Mighty Teith on October the 7th – good beginner’s river. Meet at outdoor container at 9am. Phone Shona (Saturday night on or after 19.30 hrs) to confirm trip is on.

On the 13/14 of October we a paddle over to Rathin Island. This is a Grade “C” trip with a 15 mile open sea crossing to start with, coupled with some interesting tides. Anyone interested in doing this trip please let me know well several weeks before, as there is quite a bit of planning with this trip. (Please note that this trip MIGHT have to be extended to include Monday as well. Please see Rab for further details.)

On the 27and 28 of October we are planning a trip up to the Banff area to do some paddling. This will be a Friday Night start, and where we are planning to go will very much depend on the weather. This will be a Hostel based trip. If you are interested in going I need to know at least a week in advance.

Not even giving myself a chance to unload my boat from the van, we are out the following night, the 29th; we get back from Banff on a short Night Paddle to Loch Lomond. Meeting at stores for 1830 or at 1930 at Balmaha. Again the weather conditions for a night paddle have got to be excellent for the trip to go ahead.

So just into November and we have another trip, this is a Grade A trip along the Fife Coastline. Meeting at the stores for 0800.

As a look forward to next year, the Club’s big week long sea kayaking trip looks as if it will happen in Orkney in either July or August 2013. The initial thoughts are that this trip will be a Grade “B” trip. But given the location and the tides around this area, everyone that attends this trip must be **very confident in Grade “B” conditions as well as their personal skills for those conditions.**  This will give everyone in the Club plenty of time to get their personal paddling fitness, and their paddling skills up to a good level before we go.

**Diary**

**September**

**1 Holy Island A 0730 Rab**

**9 Paddle Festival All 0830 TBC Bill**

**15 Loch Lubnaig A 0900 Bill**

**21-24 Islay/Shiants C TBC Rab**

**29/30 Gigha A/B TBC Andy**

**October**

**7 River Teith Grade 2 0900 Shona**

**13/14 Rathlin Island C TBC Rab**

**27/28 Banff Coast B Rab**

**29 Monday Loch Lomond Night Paddle A 1830 Rab**

**November**

**3 Leven to Burntisland A 0800 Rab**

**Bill Davis Tel: 07831 789215**

**Andy Ligethy Tel: 07866 559840**

**Rab Burns Tel: 01877 382141**

**Shona Tel: 07507 500996**

**Please remember to give the respective trip leader at least ONE WEEKS notice if you intend to borrow club equipment. Also please contact the Trip leader the night before to check for any final updates regarding information. (Weather, Meeting points, etc.)**