



## Newsletter

March 2011

### AGM

Well I think that went quite well. A pleasant 'social' beforehand and a constructive and good humoured meeting to follow.

Debbie is the new Chair which was the main change of the evening and we managed to avoid the awkward, shoe-gazing silences when it came to filling jobs. I'm sure you remember a few of those at previous agm's but there seems to be a new spirit about the club these days.

Personally I have to confess to having been one of those shoe-gazers in the past but this year I found myself overcome with a zealous passion and found myself waving my hands in the air like a Billy Graham convert and now I'm on the committee; and actually it's ok! No really it is...we had the first meeting recently and again it was a relaxed, constructive affair.

So don't be bashful folks, we all know the kind of club we want now ie a social activity first and foremost which happens to be based around a common enjoyment of paddling and your committee is geared to that end. None of them bite (though Jean could give you a nasty nip), so if you have an idea put it forward either in person or via the message board.

**\* the minutes of the the AGM and the committee meetings will be on the message board**

### Rota

One of the things we discussed at the AGM was having a duty rota for our sessions at Errwood.

The essence of this is to share the load across all the members ie we all chip in so that the same people don't end up doing all the work and no paddling.

A rota will be prepared and all adult members will be encouraged to do a shift. The duties will include opening up, supervising gear etc and generally being aware of what's going on.

If we all get involved nobody should end up doing more than one or two sessions over the season.

Two people will probably be required for the first and second evenings of each month with just one for the remainder.

Clearly there needs to be flexibility in the rota and the mechanics of organising it are under construction at the moment. Helpful suggestions to any committee members please.

## Dates for your diary

- 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> March Dove Tour – see message board  
1<sup>st</sup> April equipment check 10am 'ish see Derek R. Sorting out the good, the bad and the ugly .  
9<sup>th</sup> April the Mayoral Charity bag pack - talk to Alison if interested  
14<sup>th</sup> April we anticipate starting Thursday evenings at Errwood  
5<sup>th</sup> May probable date for first beginners night at Errwood  
11-12<sup>th</sup> June Whaley Bridge water weekend at which we hope to have a presence. Ideas welcomed.

## Buxton Pool

Don't hold your breath. Unless you're in it of course.

## Errwood evening sessions

After consulting the sunset times, tide tables and Daily Mail horoscope we aim to start the summer season of Thursday evening sessions on April 14<sup>th</sup>, initially between 6pm and 8pm, but as the evenings lengthen moving to 6.30 till 8.30.

The first Thursday of each month will be for new members (with normal paddling for everyone else) so that they can be introduced and inducted.

The second Thursday of the month will have an emphasis on games, for new and existing members to join in.

We aim to run another safety course so that more members are available for a supervisory role on paddling nights

Also a programme of star awards and other training eg sea kayak safety is envisaged.

## River Weaver

Here's Debbie's report of the recent trip down the River Weaver in one of the club's new Atlantic sea kayaks.....

"On what was expected to be a cold, early spring day 6 Peak Paddlers rugged up for a 12 mile paddle on the River Weaver from Clifton to Dutton Locks and back. After a chat with members of Runcorn rowing club and learning about the local waterways, Derek, Wendy, myself, Mark, Alan and Mike headed west away from the industrial area of Runcorn with its power stations and chemical works. Soon out into the countryside the eagle eyed paddlers spotted buzzards around Becketts Wood, with one flying low over the river.

Before long the sun was shining brightly and our overdressed paddlers were beginning to overheat The lunch stop gave everyone chance to look round Dutton locks and remove a few layers before heading back. (pedantic editors note: always dress for *immersion* ).

With the winter behind us some may have found they were a little less fit than they would have liked. However with the gentle breeze and slight flow in our favour there was time to enjoy the surroundings in the warming sun and make easier progress on the return under the impressive Dutton viaduct to Clifton. "

Sounds like a pleasant day out, so well done to Alan for organising that one.

Well that's all folks, as I said earlier please use the message board for raising any issues and making suggestions or better still grab a committee member and air your views.

The committee will be putting as much info about the actual running of the club up there on the message board as part of the effort to be inclusive and to engage with, embrace, and generally be in peace, love and harmony with you, the great unwashed. ( shouldn't that read 'you, the membership' ? ed.)

Geoff Shoults  
Peak Paddlers Press Officer