

British Canoeing East Region Touring Programme Summer 2018



Many of the clubs in the East Region have agreed to come together to deliver a programme of Touring Events, generally targeting the 3rd Sunday of every month as a Touring Sunday. The plan is that a different club will host a Tour each month, and it will be advertised to all clubs in the Region. The basic format of each event will be similar:-

- The Touring Events will be aimed at those of 2* Standard (2 Seasons paddling) and above to provide opportunities for intermediate paddlers to paddle different rivers around the Region.
- To ensure there is adequate on-water cover:-
 - All paddlers will be paddling with a Club. The Club will be responsible for the paddlers in their group.
 - Each Club will complete an On Water Registration Form on the day. This will identify the Club, the On Water Leader(s) and the Club members in the group. An On Water Contact number will also be recorded, if available. It will also be linked to the Risk Assessment.
 - Each Club will check out at the end of the Tour, before leaving the River, so the organisers can confirm that all paddlers have completed the Tour.
 - Clubs will confirm attendance at the Tour with the Organiser before the event. This will make it easier for the organisers to understand that everyone has arrived, and will make it possible for the Organiser to cancel the event if weather conditions dictate.
 - Paddles will only be open to individuals if a club is willing to take responsibility for them. For this reason, many paddles will be open to other clubs only.
- The Organising club will provide the following services:-
 - An Entry for the programme of Events
 - Date and Start time. (Ideally not too early, to allow for transport from a distance)
 - Details of Parking (Locations & fees) and Car shuttle if necessary.
 - A basic plan for the trip in advance - Start and End points, timings, tides (if appropriate), hazards, emergency exit points etc. so that club coaches can prepare in advance.
 - Any specific Risks associated with the trip will be called out and identified on the Risk Assessment.
 - An On shore contact, may be provided, who can assist if a club needs to end their trip early. (e.g. By giving the leader a lift to where their car is parked)
 - An Overall organiser who takes overall responsibility and decides whether to proceed or cancel, for instance.

Initial programme:-

- Sunday May 20th – Felixstowe (Bawdsey Quay) to Woodbridge on the River Deben – Deben Canoe Club. Contact: Tim Midwinter at info@debencanooclub.org.uk
- Sunday June 17th – Shotley to the Orwell Bridge on the River Orwell – Colchester Canoe Club. Contact Steve Waters at coketech@btinternet.com
- Sunday July 29th – Brightlingsea to Rowhedge and back on the River Colne – Tendring Canoe Club. Contact Sandy Sayadi at sandy110862@hotmail.co.uk
- Sunday September 23rd – Sudbury Quay to Bures on the River Stour - Sudbury Canoe Club. Contact: Kyrstie Jane Hall at scc.onthetour@gmail.com

For details regarding any of the trips please contact the organiser listed or Tim Midwinter at info@debencanooclub.org.uk.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who takes Ultimate Responsibility for the Tour?

A: The Organising Club will nominate an Organiser who will ensure that the Clubs leading on the water have been given access to the Risk Assessment, Maps for the Trip, Access/Egress Points, Emergency exits etc.

Q: Who takes Responsibility for Paddlers on the Water?

A: Each Club attending the tour will be responsible for their On Water Activities, as if they had organised the trip. Their On Water Leader will be appropriately qualified (as defined by the club and the experience levels of their paddlers), appropriately equipped (e.g. Spare Clothes, First Aid Kit, Shelter, Split Paddles, Phone, Tow Line, etc.) and have the necessary Safety and Rescue Skills. The Club and On Water Leader are responsible for all On Water Activity by those in their group which is defined on the Signing On Sheet.

Q: What skill level should Paddlers be at?

A: The intention is that the tours will be aimed at paddlers who have the 2* award, or have been paddling at least 2 years. However, as above, the Clubs and their On Water leaders take responsibility for their paddlers, and so it is down to the club to ensure that the paddlers in their group are up to the challenges they are likely to face. (e.g. Types of Water, Distance, likely conditions etc.)

Q: How is Insurance Organised?

A: Whilst on the water, Clubs are expected to have insurance that covers their members, and their on water leaders – this is Business As Usual.

A: Claims of Negligence against the Organising Club or Organiser would be covered by the Organising Clubs own insurance as per any normal activity. Coaches and BC members are also covered against claims of Negligence by their own personal insurance.

A: Insurance for Individuals whilst partaking of the tour would be covered in the same way as on a normal club paddle.

A: If the organising club is accepting BC Members who are not Club members on the tour, then the Organising Club will have to:-

- Provide appropriate Leader/Coach Support.
- Ensure that an On Water Registration is completed with the Leader/Coach as the On Water Leader and the participants listed.
- BC Members will be covered by their BC Members Insurance.
- Any Non-Members, if accepted by the Leader/Coach, will need to take out temporary BC membership (£5 I believe).

Q: How will Cancellation of an Event be Handled?

A: Clubs are asked to register with the organiser in advance if they are intending to participate. This will allow the organiser to send out a cancellation prior to an event if required.

Q: Is there a Maximum Number of Participants defined?

A: In practice the Clubs are responsible for the paddlers on the water. Where large numbers of clubs/paddlers are taking part, it is recommended that the groups are staggered, so that no more than around 24 paddlers leave at the same time. However, the final decisions are left to the On Water Leaders.

Q: Can a tour have more than one Distance defined?

A: Yes. For instance there could be a Long Boat Tour and a General Purpose Boat Tour defined. However, if a club has paddlers on both tours, then they must provide On Water leaders for each tour so that each On Water Group is in itself a safe, self-sufficient group.