



# Axe Vale Canoe Club (AVCC)

Contact us at: [info@axevalecc.co.uk](mailto:info@axevalecc.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.axevalecc.co.uk/>

Affiliated to British Canoeing and  
Quality Mark accredited



*Dear Club Member,*

I hope you have been keeping well.

As you are aware the club committee had suspended all club activities on account of the COVID outbreak. We have been paying close attention to both government and British Canoeing advice about when and how we might be able to resume canoeing. I am writing to let you know what we have agreed can now happen.

Whilst the risk of catching COVID is still present, **the committee has agreed to allow members to use club boats, paddles, spray decks, buoyancy aids, helmets and to launch from the clubhouse slipway.** This will only be possible however if members observe some strict conditions:

## **Club Sessions:**

- Once on site and on the water, social distancing will be strictly observed.
- Only small groups of four will be allowed to meet, supervised by two club coaches/leaders (making a total of six).
- At this point in time, whilst we are trialling new procedures, club paddling sessions will be restricted to **adult members** only.
- Sessions will run on a Tuesday evening or Saturday, subject to availability of coaches/leaders.
- Members will have to book onto sessions through WebCollect (£5 per session).
- Members taking part in the session need to be able to carry out a self-rescue i.e. get out of their boat and swim to the bank or beach.

## Equipment:

- Members need to arrive changed into their base layers and have with them their own bag and over trousers – if this is a problem please contact Tash Khan-Davis ([tkhandavis@gmail.com](mailto:tkhandavis@gmail.com)).
- Buoyancy aids, spray decks, paddles and helmets, after being used by members will be sprayed with sanitiser and hung in the 'cage' to dry; club boats will be washed down and returned to the boat store.
- Members will have to travel home in their base layers or get changed in the open.

## Facilities:

- The clubhouse, changing rooms and showers will not be accessible.
- Only one person at a time will be allowed in the boat house to get their equipment.

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- There will be access to a toilet in the clubhouse.
- Members will have to sanitise their hands when entering the boat house or when using the toilet.

Sanitiser will be available at the club, but please also try and bring your own. **Finally you will need to bring along your own drink and any snacks.** We have a lot of new procedures to learn and the club committee will review how things are going over the coming weeks. If the procedures are proving difficult to implement, we may have to stop.

Look out for further information and how to book a place on a session on the club website and club Facebook group. Look forward to seeing you on the water and keep safe.

**Please renew your club membership at a nominal £10 to attend these sessions** and other casual paddling.

## ***Casual Paddling:***

- You may paddle only with household members or up to five other person applying appropriate social distancing.
- You may only use personal equipment and can only use your own boat from the club store (assuming you have key access). You should wash hands before and after use of club stores. You may wish to take your boat home to reduce the times of accessing the stores. If you need to arrange access to get your boat (e.g. to take it home) you can contact us (Donna has offered to facilitate).
- You should only paddle somewhere that is local and safe with minimal risk of calling the emergency services.
- You cannot use club equipment or the clubhouse (toilets, changing rooms, etc.).
- You can now launch into the harbour and from the beach (see AYC info below) and paddle through the harbour.
- If paddling on the Axe please stay on the estuary – i.e. do not go above the Colyford Road bridge as we are outside the Axe River paddling season.
- If you have an AYC parking fob, you can park at the marina on the beach front leaving space between vehicle but must have travelled independently (if not same household).
- Note the recent pollution incident on the Coly so water quality may not be great in the Axe – avoid swallowing it and wash your hands with clean water.
- Remember you are paddling at your own risk. Please be sensible and maintain the club's reputation with AYC and the community.

## ***British Canoeing guidelines (not updated yet by BC):***

- We recommend that members continue to follow the government and public health guidelines. We also want to remind members that if you or anyone within your household has coronavirus symptoms, you should continue to self-isolate.

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- Social distancing; Paddlers must practice social distancing at all times and maintain a distance apart of at least 2 metres. People from different households should not travel in the same car. Paddlers should aim to avoid busy areas and take great care to maintain social distancing at access and egress points.
- Travel; Whilst travel to exercise is not prohibited, our strong advice is that paddlers should paddle locally if possible. In the interest of respecting the views of our countryside partners and protecting rural locations from the spread of coronavirus, British Canoeing is discouraging travel to remote and rural locations, as well as long journeys to go paddling.
- Safety and paddling well within capabilities; Only competent and experienced paddlers should be on the water independently. Paddlers are reminded that they are entirely responsible for their own safety at all times and that currently the resources of the waterways authorities and the emergency services are very limited. Paddlers should take care to make responsible decisions, paddle in familiar locations, and favourable conditions.
- Paddling at the coast; At present there are no RNLI lifeguards on beaches and although volunteer lifeboat crews are fully operational, it is important that only experienced paddlers should paddle on coastal waters and that when doing so they closely follow RNLI safety advice.

### ***Axe Yacht Club:***

We have agreed the following guidance for AYC members:

- Current Government guidelines now allow members to travel to the club for exercise.
- Anyone who is unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to the club. Anyone who has contact with a family or household member who is unwell with the symptoms of COVID-19 should stay away from the club for a minimum of 14 days.
- Please park on the beach top leaving one parking space empty between each car. **DO NOT PARK IN THE YARD.**
- Strict social distancing **MUST** be observed at all times.
- You are encouraged to bring disposable gloves and anti-bacterial hand sanitiser to use when handling surfaces that other members come into contact with e.g. yard taps.

The advice from the Harbour Authority is as follows:

**The Axmouth harbour will also be open for all forms of water sports practiced on open waterways, including sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, rowing, kayaking, paddle-boarding and the use of privately owned motorised craft (in line with the usual Axmouth Harbour bylaws), those engaging in these water sports are required to observe the government guidance on Covid19 and maintain an appropriate social distance at all times.**