



AXE VALE CANOE CLUB SPRING NEWSLETTER



OUT OF THE COLD, INTO THE CURRENT

*Longer evenings, brighter skies, and the promise of warmer paddling conditions can only mean one thing – **the new season is nearly here.***

A huge well done to everyone who took on the winter paddling programme. From challenging white water to building confidence in tough conditions, your hard work is sure to pay off as we look ahead to more relaxed journeys on calmer waters. And to those who chose to relax over the colder months – welcome back! Spring is the perfect time to return, reconnect, and get back on the water.

We've got an exciting programme of activities and trips lined up for the months ahead, so be sure to dive into this newsletter and see what's coming up. We can't wait to share another fantastic season with you all.

– Charlotte Bailey
AVCC Publicity Officer

HOLD THE DATE: 01 APRIL 2026 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)



*Members are encouraged to attend the AGM on **01 April 19:00, at the Harbour Inn, Axmouth, EX12 4AF.***

This is an important meeting where you as members can hear about the club's activities, plans for the coming year and approve the membership fees for the year.

If you would like to join the committee and help with the running of the club, please get in touch with **Tash 07979496862**

The meeting should last about 90 minutes and there will be a bar!



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WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, SORTED!

Club Nights this year start on **Wednesday 15 April**. As usual we aim to be on the water by 18:30 and off before 21:00, depending on weather, and tidal conditions. Coaches will start to arrive after 18:00 to open the clubhouse and boat stores.

PLEASE DO NOT RENEW MEMBERSHIP UNTIL AFTER THE AGM IS HELD - 01 APRIL, 19:00PM

We hope to be able to offer a couple of options - a sea paddle or an estuary paddle.

Please can all members make an effort to help coaches and leaders mop up the shower facilities at the end of the evening - even just once in the season, thank you.

- Tash Khan-Davis
AVCC Chair and Coaching Support



GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK ABOUT THE CLUB!

Please take a few minutes to complete this feedback survey before our AGM:

<https://forms.gle/MJ1mQYEcVcfTqxyM8>

Your feedback is very helpful and ensures that your appreciation of the work done by coaches and leaders is formally recognised.

- AVCC Committee





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THINK BEFORE YOU LAUNCH & LAND - RIVER MOUTH FLOW

Our unique river mouth generates Tidal flow, through swell and surf and around a shingle bank. This has caused several capsizes requiring rescues in the last year. Some sea paddlers have struggled with deep water rescues.

Key points to keep us all safe:

- Having a clear plan on navigating the mouth
- Having and discussing a plan in the event of capsize(s).
- Being prepared to stop, before the mouth is entered and if needed, landing or launching at alternative locations e.g. off the beach.
- Kayak paddlers should wear helmets when entering or leaving the river mouth as per club safety policy. The dangers of flow, swell, shingle bar and other traffic are not always obvious to paddlers.
- For those who paddle on the Sea, it is important to be able to be rescued and help with rescue, swiftly, safely and comfortably. Training and practice is the key and is available in pool sessions or at the club when it's warmer!



ACCIDENT AND INJURY REPORTING

Any club paddler who sustains an injury during club activity must **please ensure the club accident book is completed**. This can be done by any coach or leader and is essential for the clubs safety monitoring and insurance cover.

CLOTHING

Always dress for the water temperature and be prepared if you get wet!

Good secure footwear is essential if paddling on the sea or in moving water. It's important that this stays on when capsize occurs (we all swim!)

– Ross Dell
AVCC Safety Officer



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HAVE A TASTE FOR ADDITIONAL ADVENTURES?

Interested in a taste of adventure on waters further from home? Check out the dates below for some canoe events this year that may be of interest:

- **3 – 6 April**, Open Canoe Association (OCA) “Easter on the Broads” event.
- **3 – 5 July**, AVCC “Bob’s” Canoe weekend
- **19 September**, Monster The Loch event (Loch Ness; OC1)

The following events are already in my diary as possibilities and I may be able to offer a lift. Do come talk to me if these are of interest:

- **22 – 25 May**, OCA Canoe fest (Cotswold Water Park)
- **4 – 6 September**, Round Hayling Island event (Southampton; canoes, SUP, OC1s)
- **30 October – 1 November**, English Canoe Symposium (Windermere)

– **Laurent Duverge**
AVCC Premise Support



AND ONCE MORE FOR LUCK...

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, **please take a few minutes to complete this feedback survey before our AGM**. Your feedback is super important and it ensures that we can formally recognise the work of our coaches and leaders as well as look into areas for improvement in the upcoming season.

<https://forms.gle/MJ1mQYEcVcfTqxyM8>

– AVCC Committee