

CANOE FOCUS

**Pick your
adventure with
our challenge
routes**

Read more on page 20

**The Coach
Award has
launched!**

Read more on page 15

**The Hurley
Classic 2018**

Read more on page 8

Let's Go Somewhere

15% discount for British Canoeing members



You can also use your discount with:

**SNOW
ROCK**

runnersneed
the running specialists

 **CycleSurgery**

snowandrock.com | runnersneed.com | cyclesurgery.com

Stores nationwide | cotswoldoutdoor.com

Full T&Cs apply. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Selected lines are exempt. 10% discount only on bikes.
Only valid upon production of your British Canoeing membership identification in store or use of valid discount code online. Offer expires 31.12.18.

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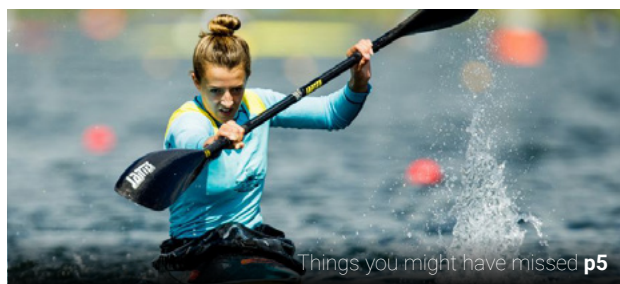
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Welcome

Welcome to our first edition of Canoe Focus combined with The Paddler Magazine. The digital version of the Paddler Magazine with the Canoe Focus insert, will now be provided 6 times a year to all full members of British Canoeing in England as part of the membership package.

We have also negotiated a preferential rate of £20.99 for members who wish to receive the printed versions through their letter box. Whether online or in print I hope you enjoy your read of The Paddler as part of your membership benefits.

It is time to send out our AGM papers and so I am reminded that it's just a year now since we launched Stronger Together, our strategic plan for 2017-2021. Real progress has been made in some areas during these last 12 months;

- > We have a new 4 year plan for coaching, the Awarding Body website (www.britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk) which includes lots of information about our courses has been relaunched. The new Coach (old level 2) qualifications have been revised, repackaged and are now live and have received great reviews
- > We have published around 50 new canoe trails this year and there are now 141 on the web site, which all receive lots of views
- > We have become compliant with the new UK Code of Sports Governance and introduced many new policies and procedures including revised safeguarding and whistleblowing policies
- > We have taken big steps forward to ensure the welfare and well-being of athletes and coaches in our Olympic and Paralympic programmes
- > We secured the rights to host 3 International events between 2019-2021
- > In 2017 British athletes won 90 medals in World and European championship and 5 athletes won senior World Championships titles
- > We have reviewed and repackaged our membership scheme introducing a new category for club members and put plans in place to connect with the thousands of paddlers who are not in clubs

Of course there is much more to do. As they say, Rome wasn't built in a day and we are at the end of the first year of an ambitious 4 year strategy. During the next 12 months I will expect to see;

- > The launch of an Access Charter which clearly states our views on access and the position that we would like to get to, and which encourages coordinated action to bring about changes to legislation on this critical issue (**page 22**)
- > The Star Awards reviewed, repackaged and relaunched
- > The launch of our new membership categories and membership growth above the 35000 of 2017
- > The further development of Go Canoeing to provide weekly sessions for people new to the sport
- > The launch of a digital resource which provides lots of information about places to paddle
- > A major new focus on providing great resources to help clubs and centres with their own plans and activities
- > Continued success at international level across the disciplines
- > A new UK Agreement which clarifies the roles, responsibilities, and relationships between British Canoeing and the governing bodies in Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland
- > The development of new Terms of Reference for all of the committees within British Canoeing that report to the Board

We will be publishing an Annual Report on 2017 at the AGM and will be making this available on the web site. We will also publish on the web site in March, a full report on the year 1 progress towards the targets within Stronger Together.

We are making progress. 2018 is going to be another exciting year of change and progress. To achieve our ambitious goals will require us all to work together towards the same ambitions. Paddler, clubs, centres, coaches, volunteers, committees, staff, board, partners....all working towards the same targets and big ambitions. Exciting times. Stronger Together.

David Joy
Chief Executive



News



For regular news and updates from British Canoeing head to the news page on our website!

www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/news 

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Paracanoe programme receives funding boost from UK Sport

British Canoeing's paracanoe programme has received a boost with an increase of National Lottery funding from UK Sport. **The announcement by UK Sport will see the paracanoe programme receive an extra £268,000 during the Tokyo 2020 Games cycle for the new events in the Va'a.**




Click here to read more

British Canoeing appoint Tim Brabants to senior coaching team

British Canoeing has announced that Olympic gold medallist Dr Tim Brabants MBE is to join the World Class canoe sprint programme as Podium Technical Coach.




Click here to read more

Member roadshows!

British Canoeing has been on the road, holding regional roadshows to update members on the launch of the Club Associate membership and plans for our Access and Environment campaign. If you were unable to attend and want to know more, the presentations and discussions from the roadshows will be available to view on our website.




Click here to read more

Things you might have missed



Enya Dale wins the Oxfordshire Junior Sportswoman of the Year 2017 Award

Falcon Canoe Club's Enya Dale has been named as Oxfordshire's junior sportswoman of the year for 2017.

Canoe lifting series

We've been working on a few new exercise videos suitable for paddlers following the success of our 'Wellness Wednesday' feature on Facebook where every week, we would introduce some new exercises for you to work into your training regime.




Click here for the videos

We've got four different lifting exercises for you to try over the next four weeks, all used by our athletes as part of their training regimes.

Every week we will release a new video, so keep an eye out on our Facebook and Youtube and give the exercises a go at your next gym session.

Sky News

Ben Seal, our Places to Paddle Manager, was recently on Sky News discussing the need for there to be greater clarity around shared and fair access to the water!



NEWS

Canoe Focus Early Spring 2018



Membership of British Canoeing is changing in April 2018

**Please note that these changes only affect members in England

In our last edition we outlined changes to British Canoeing membership and our new membership categories. joom.ag/79fL/p6 follow this link to access the previous issue.

The key changes

1. The introduction of a free "Digital Sign Up" for fans, supporters and independent paddlers
2. The introduction of a Club Associate membership category for members of clubs who are not members of British Canoeing
3. The introduction of a new category of membership for national volunteers and officials who do not paddle
4. Improving the services for full individual members
5. Making some amendments to the Family membership categories



For more information including video outlines of each membership category **click here**

FAQ's

Selecting the right category

We will select a category for members based on the current membership held. At the point of renewal members will be able to select a different category.

Current Members

On the 2 April 2018, all active members will transfer over to the On the Water membership package. As your membership is due to renew you'll be able to choose the right category for the activities you do.

Members with an inactive membership

Members who have not renewed their membership within the last few months will be moved to the free Sign Up category, and continue to receive communications from British Canoeing. These members can either stay within the free offer, renew their membership or unsubscribe from communications.

On the Bank Includes:



Insurance for:
- officials and
volunteers



Special offers and
discounts



Communications



E-Membership
Card



Free advice and
support from
British Canoeing



Voting Rights

On the Water Includes:



Insurance for:
- officials and
volunteers
- club sessions
- all canoeing
activities
- coaching



Access to
competitions



Special offers and
discounts



Access to coaching
courses



Waterways Licence



Communications



E-Membership
Card



Free advice and
support from British
Canoeing



Voting Rights



Optional pay extra
boat insurance

Club Associate Includes:



Insurance for:
- club sessions



Special offers and
discounts (limited)



Communications



Optional pay extra
boat insurance



Free advice and support
from British Canoeing

Sign Up Includes:



Communications



Free advice and
support from
British Canoeing

Membership Categories and Prices from April 2018



Option 1

**Sign Up
FREE**

Option 2

Club Associate

Already paid by clubs,
and charges remain
the same as £2.20
(adults) and £1.20
(juniors)

Option 3

**On the Bank
£20**

Option 4

On the Water

Youth
(under 18)

£27

Young Person
(19-23)

£35

Adult
(over 23)

£45

Joint
membership

£80

Family

Available for Parents and Grandparents, including those living
at different addresses. 15% discount on the price of family
membership up to 2 children; then £10 per child. For example:

- 1 adult and 2 children will be £84 (instead of £99), and any
additional children will be £10 each
- 2 adults and a child will be £99 (instead of £117), 2 adults
and 2 children will be £122 (instead of £144) and any
additional children will be £10 each

THE HURLEY CLASSIC 2018

Billed as the Event of the Year, 'The Hurley Classic' 2018 takes place on the weekend of 17th and 18th March.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE EVENT?

We spoke to Chairman of the GB Freestyle Committee and Event Director Andrew Jackson (Jacko), to find out what makes the event one not to miss and why you should get involved in the whole weekend. Here is what he had to say:

The event is both one of the biggest and oldest for freestyle kayaking in the world. It has grown and stood the test of time because at optimum levels Hurley Weir forms an awesome wave and two play holes. This formation together with a location 20 minutes west of London makes this one of best freestyle kayaking sites in the world.

The spirit at Hurley has always been about creating great competition alongside social activity that encourages community. Over the last five years things have evolved from freestyle and now we have SUP, Boater X, World Rolling Championships and many other get active elements. Most years we add at least one new big component.

Our philosophy is that we want you come for a weekend of fun, not just for one competition. So there is always something to get involved with, something you can get excited about and something you can inspire others with when you tell the stories.

Workshops, live coaching via video feed, demonstrations, on the water coaching, trade stands and lectures. All happening on one site and open for everyone to get involved with. Take to the water, hang out on the bank, watch from the bridge, check out the trade stands or relax in the heated marquee. One thing is for sure, you will have a full weekend.

We try to cater for people of all abilities and ages. For younger paddlers, there's Younguns Meet the Stars. It's a unique event where young aspiring paddlers get to paddle with superstars in the sport and learn top tricks and techniques to progress and be the stars of the future.

We encourage the social scene by providing a huge heated marquee with a café. Here you can sit and chat with like minded people who will share their inspiration and fill your head with ideas for your next adventure. Don't worry; whilst you're chatting we also have live streaming to large TVs so that all the action can be viewed. Then in the evening we use the marquee to host the Huge Feast where over 200 paddlers all sit down and have A Huge Feast!

As important as any other part of the Classic is our potential to champion good causes and make a big impact with our audiences regarding these. We have been moved by the effort to help our environment and in 2018 this becomes action. Alongside other environmental initiatives the event will be banning single use plastics from catering services, encouraging cleanup efforts with our 'Pick Up Two' campaign, carrying out environmental audits, and providing practical environmental guidance. We will also focus on our key influencers, for example world champions and encourage them to lead by example and drive a proactive culture.

The event runs through collaboration between organisers, industry and participants. Collaboration for us means that through careful consideration there are always multiple winners who all benefit from being part of the event. As we recognise our success the local environment and consequentially the global environment will become part of our collaboration and hopefully the impact of the event will be positive in every way.



To enter the event, find out more about the weekend and download further information visit the Hurley Classic website or Facebook page.

2018 HURLEY CLASSIC

The Event of the Year

The Hurley Classic
International Paddlesport Festival
17-18 March 2018

On the water

Hurley Classic Jam Event
Younguns Freestyle, Meet The Stars
SUP X racing
Boater X racing
Floodlit Showcase Final
Come On Lets Boat and Board open sessions
Coaching and video analysis

In the tent

Coaching and video analysis
World Championships Rolling
Erg Challenge
The Grand Feast
The Hurley Horn
TVF Awards
Physiotherapy and Massage

Across the weekend

Trade stands - demos and advice
Stalls to buy cool kit
Hurley Super Champ Competition
Hurley Dream Team Competition
Live Stream online
Hot food Café

Register at hurleyclassic.co.uk

Updates & Live Feed at [Facebook/HurleyClassic](https://www.facebook.com/HurleyClassic)

Photos: Jack Gunter



2018
**HURLEY
CLASSIC**

Learn Freestyle from the world's best paddlers.

**Younguns Freestyle: Meet the Stars
only at The Hurley Classic
17 March 2018, 09:30-14:00**

- » Meet, learn and train with some of the world's best paddlers.
- » Paddle the world famous Hurley Wave.
- » Get secrets from industry experts.
- » Get Mum and Dad involved, with workshops for parents.

If you're 18 or under and into Whitewater you cannot miss this. This might be the best opportunity on the planet for young paddlers to get into freestyle.

Can't roll yet? Just starting out on whitewater? Sign up, bring your kit and prepare to get on the Hurley Wave. Yes that's right, freestyle boat or not, we'll get you close enough for a taste of what you'll learn to do.

Register at hurleyclassic.co.uk

Updates & Live Feed at [f/HurleyClassic](https://www.facebook.com/HurleyClassic)

Photos: Jack Gunter





PADDLE IN THE PARK

2-3 June 2018



Saturday 2nd June & Sunday 3rd June 2018

Paddle in the Park is back for 2018 at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham! Join us for a weekend on the Lagoon and Rapids for our annual Paddle Sport Festival. With plenty to keep families entertained and workshops for all levels including white water access (for competent paddlers) and lagoon passes to try a range of paddlesports, the weekend promises thrills and spills to suit all ages and abilities.

Look out for white water workshops including OC1's, white water skills and freestyle. Keep an eye out on our website for more details on how to book

We are looking for fun, friendly and enthusiastic people who want to share their love of paddlesports with others, if you want to find out more about volunteering at Paddle in the Park send an email to event.promotion@britishcanoeing.org.uk

British Canoeing AGM, Stronger Clubs Conference & Awards Dinner

24th March 2018 | Eastwood Hall, Nottinghamshire

On the 24th March British Canoeing will be holding their Annual General Meeting, Stronger Clubs Conference and National Recognition Awards dinner. The events will run after one another, allowing attendees to attend all three events if they wish.

Find out more about each event and how to book your place over the next two pages.



Schedule:

10:00

British Canoeing AGM

(registration from 9am, please bring your membership number)

The AGM is open to all British Canoeing members to attend. The agenda and voting by proxy form can be found on our website after Friday 2nd March.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

12:00

Lunch

(provided)

For those attending the conference, lunch will be provided from 12pm.

13:00

The Stronger Clubs Conference

Cost: **free** for British Canoeing members and Associate Club members, **£45** for non members



Our first ever Stronger Clubs Conference will bring together Club Officers, Coaches and key volunteers who all contribute to the growth of our sport in their club, centre or committee environment. The conference will provide the latest insights from across canoeing, as well as a range of informative workshops and networking opportunities.

[Click here to find out more and book your place.](#)



**NATIONAL
RECOGNITION**
AWARDS 2017

19:30

The National Volunteer and Recognition Awards Dinner

Cost **£30** (free for awardees)

Enjoy a three course meal and celebrate the amazing commitment and service our volunteers and leaders have given to the sport over the last year. Seven awards will be presented during the evening with videos highlighting the stories of the awardees.

[Click to book your place.](#)

More about the Stronger Clubs Conference...

2018

Eastwood Hall, Nottinghamshire

24th
March
2018

Club representatives will be able to attend a workshop from section A and a workshop from section B:

A.1 Building Greater Clubs

A.2 Engaging Volunteers

A.3 Excellent Events

A.4 New Membership Portal

A.5 Increasing Female Paddlers

B.1 Running a Youth Section

B.2 Safe Data

B.3 Club and Event Insurance

B.4 Improving Communications

B.5 Coaching Qualifications Update

There will also be a free 'Time to Listen' workshop available for Club Welfare Officers to attend.

Networking tables will allow delegates to drop in and out to ask questions and hear about updates on the following areas:

Talent Partnerships

Membership

Go Canoeing

Access & Places to Paddle

Satellite clubs

Coaching

Welfare

Insurance

Assessing risk and safety planning

Volunteer succession planning

Book your free space today (non members £45).

For more information about the workshops visit:
www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/competition/whatson

MY PATHWAY

In order to support and guide you through your qualifications and awards journey, the Coaching and Qualifications Department have developed this interactive pathway, to enable you to make informed choices from the full range of awards we offer.

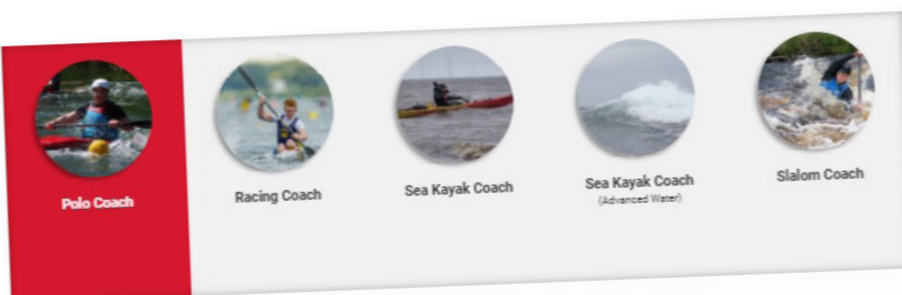
From Coaching Qualifications to Raft Guiding or Discipline Support Modules, British Canoeing offer a range of options available to you, depending on your coaching and leadership activity. There's something for everyone! Each pathway outlines the various options available to you, taking you through each award, the disciplines available and information about the content of your training and assessment.

This enables you to make informed choices of the right pathway for you, based on your activities, your aspirational goals and the progression you want.



Click here to check out your first or next steps on your Coaching and Leadership pathway.

For example, the following pathway is for you if you're looking to become a Polo Coach.



Core Coach Training

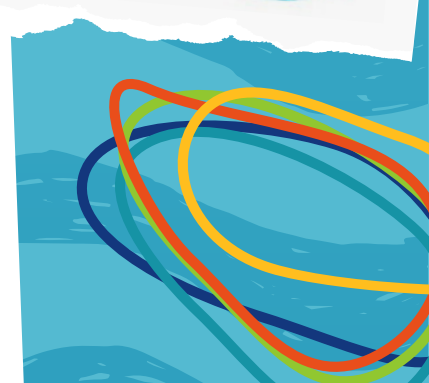
The two day Core Coach Training is generic and open to all paddlesport coaches at this level. On this practical based course, you will explore different approaches to coaching, understanding and enabling learning, and some core coaching skills. You will also be supported in evolving your personal coaching development plan to enable you to take your learning into practice after the course.

Prerequisites

- Full Home Nation Association Membership

To be able to get the most out of your training, you will need a basic level of knowledge about the discipline(s) you wish to coach; this training provides the content of HOW you will be coaching.

[Find out more](#)



THE COACH AWARD HAS LAUNCHED!

The eagerly anticipated Coach Award is now available

The Coach Award creates discipline specific pathways across all disciplines and is designed for people whose core function is to coach paddlers who want to gain/improve paddlesport skills. This will include coaching beginners new to the sport, or paddlers looking to develop their skills in the given discipline/environment.

Benefits of the Coach Award

- > Direct entry options to training available – a British Canoeing membership is the only prerequisite of the Core Coach Training
- > Supportive eLearning resources to aid learning
- > Specific pathways across all disciplines, allowing you to take the Coach Award in the discipline you want.

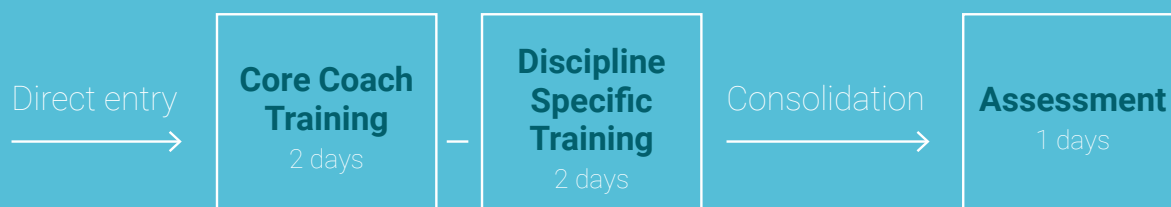
Coach Award Pathway

The learning programme for Coach Award candidates is split into four distinct parts; Core Coach Training, Discipline Specific Training, Independent and Supplementary Learning and Assessment.

Find out more about the **Coach Award** on the Coaching & Leadership section of the website, which includes information about the prerequisites, course guide, course content and assessment guidance.

Already a Coach and wondering what your next steps are? Coaches who already have a British Canoeing coaching qualification which meets the coaching requirement for the group(s) in the environment they are coaching are not required to do anything further. However, there are various direct entry options available for **trainee and existing coaches** to access the Coach Award. We also have **guidance for clubs and centres** about which qualification is best for the activities they run.

COACH AWARD PATHWAY



eLearning / Supplementary Learning / Experience



INTRODUCING TOOTEGA KAYAKS & SILVERBIRCH CANOES

Silverbirch Canoes and Tootega Kayaks are well known in the paddlesport world with Silverbirch now selling open canoes in over 30 countries around the world, and Tootega, which in eight years has gone from a brand concept through to an internationally recognised and well-regarded manufacturer of sit on top kayaks.

Following paddling trips all over the world, the businesses were born out of a desire to quite simply get boat designs to do what founders Steve Childs and James Dennis wanted them to. They initially started designing their own surf kayaks and over the years it has grown into a much more diverse business.

We visited Tootega and Silverbirch in Norfolk and caught up with Steve Childs, who points to the way they do things differently as their unique selling point.

"We try and do things differently here. Our whole ethos is that we only design products we passionately believe in."

"The only way we can produce the products we want to, with the quality levels that are important to us is to do it in house; so here we are, manufacturing canoes in a field in the middle of Norfolk."

"Even as directors we are involved in the whole process, right up to the point of production; and because we do it all here, and test all the boats we make, it makes us quite unique."

A paddler since the age of seven and a former member of the national freestyle team, Steve tells us how the pair's 'little business, run by enthusiasts in Norfolk UK, selling boats all over the world' can help steer the future of paddlesport.

"Both James and I have paddled all over the world. It's a phenomenal sport with a myriad of opportunities."

The pair hope to use their extensive knowledge and expertise to share their vision of the future, engage and build stronger communities of paddlers, coaches and partnerships; as well as promote products, opportunities and campaigns that inspire and increase participation within the sport.

"Paddling is becoming a much more accepting sport as there are less bars to entry these days."

"With modern equipment, design and teaching methods allowing people to progress much quicker than when I started, it makes it much more appealing to a wide range of people."

"I'm increasingly seeing people use paddling to escape the modern world, to get away from technology and disconnect; and I think that's where the growth in the sport is really going to come from."

Amongst a group of other well known brands, Tootega and Silverbirch will be working on a number of objectives with British Canoeing as part of our new trade partnership.



"Stronger Together is the most important thing we have seen come out of British Canoeing in the last decade, and for us it means creating stronger links between different parties involved in paddling."

"What we like about working with British Canoeing is that the modern British Canoeing listen and act upon change. There is a genuine desire to want to listen to the membership, the industry and crucially to grow the sport, and this completely aligns with our brand ethos."

"Being a trade partner is our opportunity to be listened to and to share our vision of the future. The partnerships seem to be going forward in a very positive way and I can only see them becoming stronger."

"I believe any business that has a commercial interest in the sport should be involved, and should help to steer the sports future."



The trade partnership includes clothing and kit suppliers Palm Equipment and Peak UK, alongside craft manufacturers Hou Canoes, Pyranha, Red Paddle, Tootega, Silverbirch and Wave Sport.



To find out more
about the trade
partnerships
Click Here



LET'S GO SOMEWHERE

Spring is finally here! One of our favourite seasons to explore the outdoors, as colour seeps back into the landscape after the harshness of winter. But it's not summer yet, spring weather has a way of throwing everything at you in one day. But then, that's what makes exploring it so exciting.

We've picked out some of the best kit to make sure you can handle whatever this changeable season sends your way.

COTSWOLD
outdoor

If you need any help preparing for your next adventure, or need a little inspiration, just visit your local Cotswold Outdoor store and ask our experts for some helpful advice.

Don't forget that you can find more colours and more choice online at **cotswoldoutdoor.com**

Mid layer: Rab Alpha Flux

Perfect as a mid layer but warm enough to be worn as an outer on colder days. With Polartec® Alpha Direct insulation you get exceptional warmth, with extra breathability, while panels of stretch fleece offer you great freedom of movement. When you need versatile clothing to meet changeable conditions, the Alpha Flux is one of our go-to garments.



Accessories: Hat, gloves, Buff

Sometimes it's the little extras that make the biggest difference. A woolly hat will help you keep the heat in through windy conditions. Unlined gloves will lock out the wind chill, and they're easier to put on with damp hands if you get caught out by a sudden shower. Don't forget, you can never have enough Buffs!



Outer layer: Berghaus Paclite 2.0

The Paclite is perfect for spring adventures. Lightweight and packable but with the guaranteed performance that comes from utilising a Gore-Tex membrane. Berghaus have stripped all the unnecessary features from the Paclite, leaving you with everything you need and nothing you don't. If you're looking for a reliable, just-in-case waterproof, this is one of our favourites.



Backpack: Osprey Talon/Tempest

With enough capacity for those extra layers and accessories as well as all the usual hill walking essentials the Talon and Tempest are ideal for your spring adventures. The Stow-on-the-Go feature lets you attach and remove your walking poles without having to waste time taking the pack on and off. But the most revolutionary feature is the AirScape mesh covered accordion foam back panel, which provides excellent ventilation, keeping you comfortable mile after mile.



Footwear: Salomon Quest 4D 3 GTX

The ancestors of these boots were some of our bestsellers, and the third generation of the Quest 4D line doesn't disappoint. The Gore-Tex Performance lining keeps the worst of the weather on the outside, and a gusseted tongue protects from those deeper than expected puddles. The lug pattern has been updated to offer even better grip and the 4D Chassis design guides your foot on the roughest terrain.



**15% discount for
British Canoeing
members**

You can also use your discount with:

runnersneed
the running specialists

**SNOW
+
ROCK**

CycleSurgery

PICK YOUR ADVENTURE

WITH OUR CHALLENGE ROUTES



To learn more about all our challenge routes **click here.**

Life is all about the adventure. However big or small you want it to be, we all love the thrill of achievement. With British Canoeing challenge routes your next adventure could be just around the corner.

Routes vary in length and difficulty, meaning there are adventures to suit all abilities. You may be looking for an individual experience or to raise money for charity. Aim for the top of the leaderboard or simply to savour and enjoy. Whatever your motivations, choose your challenge now and get your training plans in place.

We love it when you share your stories with us. Once you have completed your adventure you can let us know all about it through our challenge registration forms. Giving us the chance to celebrate your achievement and enter your name on the leaderboard.



TRENT LOOP: THE ONE OF MANY CONTRASTS.

Take in both river and canal, travelling from peaceful countryside to urban bustle, on this constantly changing route. Starting from the home of British Canoeing, at Holme Pierrepont, you journey through a history of industrial Nottingham, passing some big sporting venues along the way.

THE WORCESTER RING: THE ONE WITH ALL THE LIFTING.

Our newest route is a bit of a beast. Pretty, meandering canals belie the arduous nature of this challenge. With numerous portages over your 21 mile journey you are really going to feel this one in your legs and arms.

The good news is not many people have taken it on yet! So you have a good chance of getting close to the top of our leaderboard.





WINDERMERE: **THE 'MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT' ONE.**

The Lake District is undeniably one of the most beautiful places in the UK. You don't have to be super sporty to appreciate the surroundings and there are so many things to do that it's the perfect place to go with family and friends.

Plan a fun packed weekend away and bag one of challenge routes while you're there.

LOCH AWE: **THE BIG AND BEAUTIFUL ONE.**

This one truly is a stunner. Fix your eyes on the mountains as you power your way along the 25 mile length of this tough loch. Get the right weather and you really will feel the peace and calm of being at one with the vastness of nature

Do not underestimate Loch Awe, training and planning is definitely required for this challenge but you will feel a real sense of achievement at the finish.



LAKE BALA: **THE TOUGH BUT ACHIEVABLE ONE.**

If we had to choose a challenge route for new paddlers to train up for this would be the one. A seven mile out and back trip gives you the option to have a halfway stop, enjoy the scenery and refuel if necessary.

That's not to say it's easy however; it's called a challenge route for a reason!

THE THREE LAKES: **THE 'I DESERVE A MEDAL FOR THAT' ONE.**

Complete all three lakes; **Windermere**, **Loch Awe**, and **Lake Bala** over any time period to conquer our ultimate challenge.

Let us know about your achievement and you really will get a medal for that!

THE MYSTERY: **THE SOON TO BE RELEASED ONE.**

Watch this space! We have two more challenge routes to be released in 2018. One will be coming before the summer and all we can tell you at the moment is it's a capital idea!

Watch out for big announcements coming soon.

Access and environment

Our Access and Environment team have been on the road updating members on their work on the Stronger Together strategy and plans for an exciting new Charter and Campaign in 2018.

An update from Ben Seal, Places to Paddle Manager

Access and Environment is an area we know our members and the wider paddling community are hugely passionate about; it fundamentally affects the special places that we go canoeing.

In the last couple of years British Canoeing has conducted two rounds of consultation, face to face and online and access consistently comes up as the number 1 issue people want to see progress in. Access can appear to be a very confusing picture and there is a strong desire for much greater clarity on the situation around rights to waterways. Added to that, we are all united by a desire to paddle on clean, healthy waterways, so what more can we be doing to protect and enhance the environment.

Taking onboard all the feedback, the Stronger Together strategy identifies 15 action points for places to paddle, access and environment and we are already seeing great progress being made against the things you asked us to do:

In the past year we have:

- › In the last six months, British Canoeing launched almost 50 new canoe trails on the website, including 2 new waterproof maps in Manchester and Birmingham
- › Launched an environmental Guide Module to train leaders and hopefully disseminate good practice
- › Increased the amount of news and media we have put through our channels. We are raising our PR and lobbying profile, we have taken professional advice who is helping to make connections at Westminster
- › We are starting to build a Rivers Database, to support our case to be able to paddle on rivers where we believe there is a strong case for PRN.

And 2018 should prove to be no exception to the continued progress in this area.

Looking ahead...

Later this year British Canoeing plans to publish a new 'Access and Environment Charter' to outline a positive vision for greater access and set out our commitment to protecting the health of our rivers and people. We want this charter to be a strong and bold statement on our beliefs as an organisation and set out the agenda on which we will be campaigning. Most importantly the charter will aim to unite members behind a really clear vision for the future. On this issue we genuinely are stronger together, not just as paddlers but as a community of water users.



Consultation Events

Through February and March, the British Canoeing team have been attending consultation events across the country to seek input from paddlers. The intention is to seek feedback to shape the plans and unite the paddling community behind a common, forward looking vision.

Events held to date have been very warmly received, attendees have offered lots of constructive thoughts and ideas, which have been captured and will go into shaping the final Charter document. Following the roadshow, British Canoeing will be publishing an online consultation as a second opportunity for people to have their say.

Alongside the consultation roadshows, the team have been working extremely hard to engage new partners from a wide range of sectors, not only to secure support but also to help shape our thinking about the best route forward. Input into

the campaign and Charter will also be obtained through working with our volunteer Access Advisory group, made up of experts in the field as well as our Regional and Local Waterway volunteers.

The current climate presents us with a unique opportunity to work positively for change. Major factors like Brexit, the DEFRA 25 year plan as well as the British Canoeing Strategy give us a really strong mandate really put access and environment firmly on the agenda - to find ways of helping all water users share the space in cooperation, rather than conflict.

It is vitally important that we all work together to bring about change; there are roles members, clubs and RDT's can play in improving access and environment, nationally and locally. It is hoped the new Charter will be launched early summer, so please take this opportunity to have your say and get involved in moving forward positively.

Central to our charter will be our core principles, our core beliefs on which our campaign will be based

Core principles:

1. A commitment to future 'shared waterways'
2. Belief that a historic right of access exists and a lack of clarity over interpretations of the law creates a barrier to positive progress
3. Acknowledgement that the current status quo is unsatisfactory for all parties, it is a barrier to participation and creates a climate for conflict.
4. Paddlers have a positive impact on waterways, we have a vested interest in protecting the environment. We are stronger together when tackling big issues such as the health of our rivers.
5. Canoeing contributes toward improving physical and Social wellbeing
6. Canoeing contributes a great deal to local communities and the economy.



NATIONAL GO CANOEING WEEK

THE BIG ADVENTURE

26TH MAY
— TO —
3RD JUNE

NATIONAL GO CANOEING WEEK IS BACK

National Go Canoeing Week is British Canoeing's yearly campaign which aims to bring the excitement of paddlesport to everyone. Last year's theme, The Big Adventure, was so popular that we are bringing it back for a second year.

The week runs during half term week, 26th May to 3rd June. With a few months to go before it begins there are already over one hundred activities and events already listed on the National Go Canoeing Week [website](#).

It isn't just through organised activities that people take part. A huge amount of people clock up their

miles throughout the week by getting out on the water with individual adventures. Whether it's doing their regular paddle and just going that little bit further or planning a bigger adventure for the week, it's time to get thinking about how you can take part.

An ambitious mileage target of 45,000 miles has been set for the week, so it's more important than ever for everyone to join in. As with last year there will be a photo competition running throughout the week, giving people the chance to be featured on the homepage of the website and enter a prize draw.

There will also be prizes for top mileage going to individuals and organisations and the chance of spot prizes for everyone who enters miles.



“My wife and I paddled from Wroxham to Coltishall. She is of limited mobility and we have discovered we can do this together with a bit of planning”

Alan Hensman

“I had great fun canoeing - I am going to join a club so I can do it more”

Nathan Holland