Royal Canoe Club Newsletter
March 2026 Edition

At last, Spring has arrived, along with some drier and warmer weather. With the clocks going forward at the end of this month, we can look forward to Summer and lighter evenings.
Below is an update from the RCC committee meeting held on 9th March.

Annual General Meeting

The club AGM takes place on the evening of Wednesday 15th April. Members attending will be able to vote for club officers for the upcoming year, vote for changes to the Club Rules and go through the club accounts. Notifications and Nominations of the AGM will be sent out on 25th March, along with copies of the accounts, last year's minutes and club rules. If you have any other business, you may submit to the Club Secretary by email, no later than Sunday 12th April 2026 All are welcome and dinner will be available.

First Aid Course

We will keep repeating the request for members to take part in a first aid course that we would like to run at the club. All coaches, including volunteer coaches, paid assistant coaches and race organisers must go on this course to be able to manage any medical emergency that might take place. The course is open to all members of the club and is a valuable qualification to have for all walks of life. The club will subsidise some of the cost. For further details, please contact club secretary Eleanor McKinlay at secretary@royalcanoeclub.com.

Paddle UK Big Clean-Up

The Paddle UK Big Clean-Up is back for a 5th year, running from 23rd May to 7th June and we have provisionally decided on Sunday 24th May to help with the clean-up at Royal. This fits in with the junior racing schedule and it is hoped as many members as possible will volunteer to help out on the day. Zak will apply for kits and will update with more details next month.

Boat Sheds

Zak and Aaron have reorganised and relabelled the downstream boat shed so that all members should be able to find suitable boats for themselves. There are some boats that need work carried out on them and these have been marked and will be mended in due course.

Junior Report from Zak

We are now able to paddle on the river more as weather and river conditions improve. Therefore, there are a few timetable adjustments to maximise the time the juniors have on the water.

We have been using the canal over the past few Sundays, and this has been a good chance for Dietze paddlers to be introduced back into paddling before getting on the river. The sessions have been arranged at the same time so parents can socialise, watch their children paddling while they walk/cycle the towpath and then pop into the pub for a hot drink afterwards. We've had very good feedback so we will look to repeat this for next winter.

Camps have now been set up on Loveadmin and have been advertised. The Easter Camp will take place from Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April. The camps will be a mixture of members and non-members.

The Inter-Club regatta at Nottingham has been rescheduled this year from September to July and it is hoped that we can get a club camping section in the campsite opposite the course for this regatta. Cost is £66 for 2 nights for 1 pitch (up to 4 people but you can pay extra for 2 additional guests). We would like to book this as soon as possible to ensure we are all camping together.

Juniors to the rescue!

A huge thank you to our juniors, who all gave up their PB running attempts on Wednesday 11th February to help a couple, who were in critical need of medical support, on a boat moored by the river. They didn't hesitate to step in, offering support, sharing some of their own kit to keep the couple warm, and helping the paramedics and fire brigade however they could. They stepped up like a true team to look out for others and says a lot about their care for others.

Report by Ryan Lark.

Upcoming Races

15th and 29th March – The remaining rescheduled Hare and Hounds races at Wey KC.
21st March – Junior Development Squad Winter Training Day (eligibility criteria has been posted)
28th March – K1 Marathon Selection race at Norwich CC.
11-12th April – Nottingham Regatta
The calendar of all 2026 races and regattas is on the noticeboard outside the gym, along with information for upcoming races and corresponding sign-up sheets.

Volunteers wanted!

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we always need people to get involved and help the team leaders at marathon races and at the Nottingham regattas. This may involve co-ordinating of travel to the events and organising boat transport and being available to help out at the events. The tasks won't be onerous, and it will be a good way to meet new people and get more from the events. Please contact Keith Holt at healthandsafety@royalcanoeclub.com for more details.

Dates for your Diary

160th Royal CC AGM – Wednesday 15th April. Food will be available.
Royal Hasler race – Sunday 14th June.
Paul Gilbert race – Wednesday 1st July.
Royal Sprints – Saturday 18th July.
Royal Paddling Challenge – Saturday 10th October.
Club Awards Evening – Wednesday 4th November.
Royal 10@10 – Sunday 22nd November.

It is hoped we can run some social events during the year, so if anyone has any ideas please speak to the kitchen crew – Eleanor, Jackie and Pippa.