



Royal Canoe Club Newsletter

April 2026 Edition

The clocks have gone forward, British Summer Time is here, and the evenings are already noticeably lighter. Racing is now in full flow and busy times ahead! If anyone has any photos of events attended that we could feature in the newsletter please send them to treasurer@royalcanoeclub.com.

Below is an update from the RCC committee meeting held on 13th April and some feedback from the AGM.

Annual General Meeting

The club AGM took place on the evening of Wednesday 15th April.

Club Officers

Club officers returned at the meeting were Phil Jones as Commodore, Eleanor McKinlay as Honorary Secretary and Jackie Williams as Honorary Treasurer. Bernice King was voted in as our new Club Captain. Thanks very much to Tris Turner, our out-going Captain, for all the work he has put in over the last 7 years.

Club International Pins

International pins were awarded to Zoe Clark, Elise Montagne, Dianora de Bilio and Ryan Lark, who had all represented GB at European and World Championships both marathon and sprint.

Fund Raising Event

We are planning to run a fund-raising event, at the end of the season in September, to raise funds to help give some financial support to our GB paddlers. Of course, it is an honour to be selected to represent GB at international events, but paddlers have to contribute to the cost of travelling and accommodation, which can run into thousands of pounds. It is hoped that the club will be able to help with that cost going forward. In the meantime, there are many opportunities for individual funding for athletes from various organisations that parents and athletes can look into and apply for online.

Club Bursaries

In order for our volunteer and assistant coaches to gain additional qualifications, the club has agreed to set up 5 bursaries with a promise that the coach will remain at the club and assist with coaching for 5 years. If anyone is interested in applying, please speak to your coach or a member of the committee.

Social Events

It is hoped to hold more social events at the club, so if anyone has any ideas to bring club members together please contact a committee member and watch this space!

April Nottingham Regatta

The first sprint regatta of the season took place the weekend of 11th/12th April and our new Royal CC flags were on show. However, extremely windy weather conditions overnight flattened them and the RCC gazebo (along with many others!). We will buy a new gazebo in time for the next regatta. The flags were undamaged, thank goodness!



Despite the awful weather, Royal paddlers performed very well with lots of A finals and podium places. We also had some U23 and Senior athletes racing for GB selection places and we will post the outcomes of that in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, congratulations to Adriana de Bilio who was promoted to Girls A, Jake Hughes promoted to Boys B and Edward Lockett promoted to Boys C. Very well done!

Wednesday Club Nights

As the evenings are much lighter now the 10k time trial now starts at 7pm, with dinner served straight after, £5 juniors and £6.50 adults. All are welcome to take part and, as the course is over 4 laps to Kingston Bridge, you can paddle

2.5k/5k/7.5k or the full 10k. Don't forget to book dinner on the Facebook members page or by e-mail to secretary@royalcanoecclub.com

Junior Report from Zak

Henry Pitt raced at the Marathon Assessment Race in Norwich. He had a very strong start and made the front group of top juniors, eventually finishing 8th. 4 juniors from Royal completed the Elmbridge Easter Half Marathon. This is a 12-mile race from Wey KC to Thames Lock, along the Wey Navigation with plenty of portages over locks.

Louis Tanner came 2nd in U18 Boys.

Jake Hughes was 7th in U16 Boys.

Marco Mangiantini was 2nd in U14 Boys.

Adriana de Bilio was the fastest girl overall.

Good luck to Marco who travels to Amsterdam to race at the Waterlands Marathon on 18th April!

The new summer training timetable is now on the Royal WhatsApp group.

Monday junior K2s 17:15 to 18:45, Wednesday will now be a full club race night now using a handicap system to rank all paddlers. This means everyone can be on the water at the same time, racing over different distances (2/3/4 laps) with your start time dependant on your handicap (expected finish time).

Upcoming Races

2nd May – K1 Marathon Assessment Race at Nottingham

3rd May – National Marathon Short Course Championships at Rotherham

10th May – Reading Hasler

17th May – Tonbridge 1066 Hasler, our first regional race this year!

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.

Dates for your Diary

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.

Please speak to the kitchen crew with any ideas you might have for social events we could run – Eleanor, Jackie and Pippa.