



Royal Canoe Club Newsletter

June 2026 Edition

The racing season has started well with club paddlers having had some outstanding results, detailed below.

Please note that Eleanor McKinlay, honorary club secretary, will be away from 29th June until 12th July and will not be able to answer any emails until she returns.

Below is an update from the RCC committee meeting held on 11th May. Below is feedback from the committee meeting held on Monday, 8th June.

Incidents on the Water

Recently, there have been three incidents on the water involving kayaks and rowing boats. Commodore, Phil Jones will contact the rowing club concerned about them, but it is important for us to officially record the details of any such incidents. Juniors should let their coaches know all the facts when anything occurs. Adults should record details in the Incident book, which is in the cupboard just inside the door on the island site. It is also our duty to inform PUK UK.

Club Membership Renewal

Thanks very much to all those members who have renewed their membership on time, but there are still a few fees outstanding. If that is you, please either check your LoveAdmin account or pay via bank transfer to Royal Canoe Club, 20-90-56, 83250431. If you wish to cancel your membership please let Eleanor, our secretary, know at secretary@royalcanoecub.com.

Wednesday Club Nights

Club nights are getting busier, which is great to see. Don't forget to book dinner on the Facebook members page or by e-mail. The Football World Cup has just begun and if there are any games on a Wednesday evening kicking off at a reasonable time, we will be showing them on the TV in the lounge.

Royal Hasler Marathon

This will take place on Sunday 14th June and is our biggest racing event of the year. We need volunteers to help make the day a success, so if you can help out on the day, if only for a few hours, we would be very grateful. You will get a free bacon butty and tea/coffee and a free volunteer t-shirt! Racing starts at 11am and the day ended at 3pm last year so any time you can give between set-up at 8am and 3pm, will be welcome. Please contact Eleanor at secretary@royalcanoecub.com if you can help, if only for a few hours. We will be very grateful. Paddlers, please speak to your coach about racing and getting points for the club.

Club Camping Trip at the July MacGregor Regatta

Zak and Aaron are organising a club camping weekend at the MacGregor Regatta in Nottingham, the weekend of 3rd/5th July. Staying at the campsite next to the lake, the Saturday and Sunday will be spent racing at the club sprint regatta aiming to bring the trophy home to Royal! As this is the club regatta Royal CC will contribute 50% of the entry costs. If you don't want to miss out on this year's camping trip, please contact Zak as soon as possible!

Paul Gilbert Memorial Race

This takes place on Wednesday 1st July, starting around 7:30pm. This is a fun event with paddlers in optional fancy dress and racing in various kayaks, canoes, outriggers etc to Ravens Ait and back. Prizes are awarded for best costume etc, and the overall winners are awarded a perpetual trophy. Food will be available to buy after the race, and the bar will be open! Please speak to your coach or Bernice for more details.

Royal Regatta

Our sprint regatta will be held on Saturday 18th July and will comprise 1000m, 500m and 200m races at the club, plus a team relay race. Prizes will be awarded for individual overall winners and the best relay teams. Speak to Zak or Aaron for more details.

International Selections

24-28th June - Marathon European Championships in Pitesti, Romania

Dianora de Bilio is selected to race Junior Women's K1 Long Course and Short Course. Henry Pitt is selected for the Junior Men's K2 and K1 Short Course.

1st-5th July – Junior & U23 Sprint World Championships in Halifax, Canada

Dianora is selected for the Junior Women K1 200m and Mixed 5k relay.
23-26th July – Junior & U23 Sprint European Championships in Szeged, Hungary
Dianora is selected for the Junior Women K1 200m.
Well done Dianora and Henry and all the very best!

Racing Results

We had fantastic results at the Hastings 1066 Hasler event at Tonbridge.

Div 2 Senior Men's K1 – Zak Benstead 3rd

Div 4 Veteran K2 – Tris Turner and Andy Birch 1st

Div 7 Veteran K2 – Sue Hurst and Ed Shaw 2nd

We also fielded 15 Junior entries, achieving 8 podium finishes and 4 promotions, helping the club secure 2nd place overall.

A small team travelled to the May regatta at Nottingham with some excellent results.

Dianora secured international selection and, alongside sister Adriana, won the K2 500m selection race. Ed Lockett enjoyed another successful regatta, earning promotion to Boys B.

In the U23 category, Edie and Elise trialed for the GB K4, K2 and K1 World Championships in Canada. They will be notified of the results this week.

At the Maidstone Hasler on 7th June –

Div 3 K1 - Marco Mangiantini 2nd

Div 4 K1 – Jake Hughes 1st and promoted to Div 3

Div 5 K2 – Betsy Ray and Natalie Day 1st.

Thanks very much to Zak and club captain Bernice for the racing reports.

And great results everyone!

The London Youth Games

This includes teams from the 33 boroughs of London and at this year's Kayak Sprint event, Royal had a team of 4 paddlers racing for Richmond (Leo Farrow, Henry Barker-Watson, Jonjo Fahey and Edward Lockett) and 1 for Kingston (Chloe Kemp). The boys had a very successful day with all of them qualifying through to Final A of their various age group races where

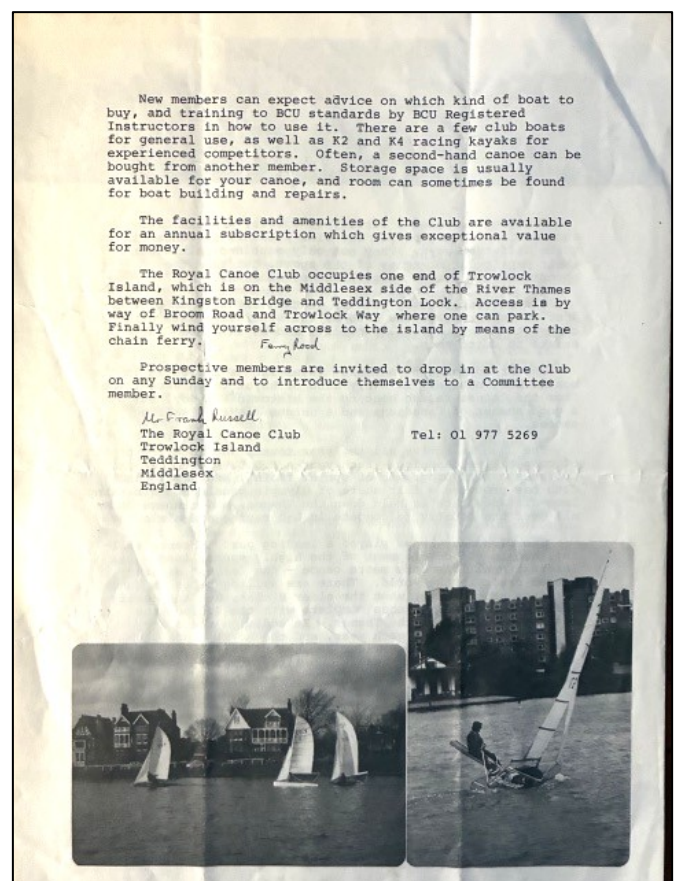


they all went on to win gold in their races. These fantastic results along with a similar set of results from the girls meant that the borough of Richmond won the overall Kayak Sprint Trophy for the fifth year in a row. Chloe Kemp was racing for the borough of Kingston in the Kayak Slalom event. Chloe also qualified for the final where she then went on to win gold in the u17 Girls Slalom. Thanks very much to Keith Holt for this report and photos. A fantastic set of results from all the Royal paddlers.



From the Archives

A friend of mine was clearing out boxes in his loft and came across a Royal CC pamphlet from the 1970s. This was sent out, by post of course, to people enquiring about joining the club. As you may be able to see from the pictures below the club was still very much involved in canoe sailing, as well as kayaking and canoeing. An interesting part of the club's history.



ROYAL CANOE CLUB

Royal Canoe Club was formed on 25 July 1844 by John McGregor as 'The Canoe Club' in a letter dated 31 May 1873 - still in our possession - Her Majesty Queen Victoria commanded 'that the Canoe Club shall be styled the Royal Canoe Club'.

We are proud, of course, that Royal Canoe Club was the first in the world and has held a leading position in the sport of canoeing for well over 110 years; but this is no place for a history lesson.

On a splendid site on a private island in the River Thames stands Royal Canoe Club and four boathouses filled with every kind of canoe; these are the bare essentials. Add a lawn to sprawl on, a bar to drink at, and canoes of all kinds to admire on the river and you have a complete and delightful picture.

Royal Canoe Club is an adult club, not a subsidised youth centre. The members are canoeists of all kinds and ages and their families; older canoeists and their children or junior members and their parents are equally welcome.



Canoeing embraces a variety of sports, and the Club succeeds in uniting people who find pleasure in canoes in quite different ways. They not only meet and talk about their particular branches of the sport, but take the opportunity to sample other kinds of canoeing.

The latest touring paddler or the versatile dabbler are just as important to the Club as the specialist international competitor; they are all canoeists and Royal Canoe Club exists to unite them.

The broad range of members' interests is reflected in the boathouses; not only is every kind of kayak to be seen there, from the latest racing boat to the historic 'Bob Roy'; but also a good number of Canadians and a unique fleet of sailing canoes.

The Club is active all the year round, and in every branch of competitive canoeing. Each year a B.C.U. status regatta provides a full programme of sprint racing, and Royal Canoe Club has produced a fair share of Olympic paddlers. A ranking long-distance race is held down the Thames, and members drive all over the country to compete in L-D racing and slalom.

The Club has always played a leading part in canoe sailing, and in the development of the highly specialised International 10 square metre canoe - the fastest single-handed craft in the world. There are sailing races on Sunday mornings at the Club, when the older B class and the easily-built Quest sailing canoes compete with the I.C. on the restricted waters of the Thames. In addition there are several open meetings each year, and the Royal Canoe Club Summer Meet held on some wider expanse of water where the International Canoe can really show its paces.



Upcoming Races

Saturday 13th June – Richmond Sprint Regatta. A little warm up for our race the following day!

Sunday 21st June – Richmond Hasler at Hurst Park.

Sunday 28th June – Wey Hasler.

Please contact your coach if you are interested in racing at any of these events. They are open to all!

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 Fund-Raising Event – Sunday 20th September.

Royal Paddling Challenge – Saturday 10th October.

Club Awards Evening – Wednesday 4th November.

Royal 10@10 – Sunday 22nd November.

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