



CENTURY CITY CANOE CLUB – CHIRP FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope you all had a good break over the festive season and returned to work with renewed energy and the intention to work less and paddle more this year!

The new canoe season is just around the corner so for those of you who have gone into paddling hibernation, it's time to wipe the dust and snail trails off your boats and get ready for another cracker of a year paddling the Century City canals.

The club has seen a number of developments in the Cape off-season after the Fish in October last year:

- **New club boats:** We have placed an order for two Zeus K3's for use by club members. K3 paddling is great fun and is becoming increasingly popular. K3's are also a great way to introduce new paddlers to the sport and take novices down the river. They will also make for some interesting racing at our TT's. As long as Dale has nothing to do with steering these boats, they should provide members with years of fun.
- **Boat storage:** Boat storage space is going to become more important as the club grows. Unfortunately our negotiations with CCPOA and Rabie to acquire additional boat storage space in the new development on the bend as you approach the car park of the Clubhouse, fell through as the rental they wanted was beyond what we can afford. We are now looking at expanding the K2 boat rack facility under the PWC bridge. We are also going to have to be a lot stricter in future with regard to the storage of boats in the double garage. Within the next week or so all K2's and boats stored illegally in racks in the double garage will be removed to the K2 storage pound.
- **Website:** We came to the conclusion that the existing website needed an extensive overhaul. In fact, we decided to go for a complete rebuild on a more modern platform. We have commissioned Natalie to do the rebuild – she has a great deal of experience in this area. Some of the features of the new website will include a gallery of paddling pics, blog of events (tripping reports, race reports, member information etc.), latest news, newsletter archive, general membership information, membership forms and a classified section (for sale, looking to buy). Other features include a facility where readers can leave comments, a calendar of events and integration of the website into our Twitter and Facebook profiles. I think that this is a very exciting development and will make the club and news of its activities a lot more accessible to you. We are very aware of the need to keep content current and the new website will make this a lot easier. Natalie plans to present the layout of the new website at the AGM.

- **Coaching:** Rich would like to start Club Squad Training next week Monday and Friday (I guess this means he is in favour of TT's switching to Tuesdays) afternoons at 17:45 and continue throughout the season. Anyone interested in participating, please indicate your willingness by emailing Rich on richk@mweb.co.za.

Additionally, Richard's group coaching sessions on the canals will start again at the beginning of March. The group sessions are free and open to all club members. In addition to the group coaching sessions, Richard plans to start a paddling academy with more structured training programmes and coaching. He intends to raise a charge for coaching through his academy. Richard will post information on the new website on his plans for both the group coaching sessions and his paddling academy.

I have also spoken to Gavin White and Zaren Courtney about having some general stroke technique coaching sessions at the club- they are keen to get this started and will more than likely raise a fee for stroke correction coaching sessions for individual paddlers.

- **Time trials:** Thanks to all of you who completed the survey Natalie sent out recently. It was very helpful to get your views on your preferred night to hold our TT's and your comments in general. We will take a decision on which night we are going to opt for at our next committee meeting and let you know the outcome.
- **AGM:** Just a reminder that the club's AGM is on **Monday 13 February 2011**. Always good to get input from members so please try to make a point of being there and join us for a few cold ones afterwards.

Phil

See you on the water!

