

The Sit-on-Top Touring Club Answers to common questions

What is the Sit-on-Top Touring Club?

The Club was set up in March 2011 and runs intermediate level trips for sit-on-top kayak paddlers.

What are the aims of the club?

To provide more recreational opportunities for members to enjoy:

- sit-on-top kayak touring trips
- the social side of paddling
- the local environment and wildlife
- improving their kayaking skills

Are there any other membership benefits?

Club Membership also includes CANI Affiliated Membership, with the following benefits -

- Third party insurance cover
- CANI recreational paddles – free or at a reduced rate

See www.cani.org.uk for more details

How many trips are run each month?

Trips are run once a month throughout the spring and summer. A calendar of planned trips is drawn up at the start of the year.

How long are the trips?

Evening trips will involve around 1 – 1.5 hours paddling, with a break.

Day trips will involve around 3 hours paddling with a few breaks.

Paddlers should only undertake trips that are within their skill and fitness level. If you are unsure that a trip is suitable for you to undertake, please discuss this in advance with the trip leader. In the interests of safety, the trip leader will advise a paddler if they consider the trip is unsuitable for them.

Who are the trip leaders?

At present, the authorised trip leaders are Gary Harkness and Julie Harkness, though we hope, in time to train up more leaders.

Who is eligible to apply for membership?

Membership is limited to keep numbers at a safe and manageable level. To be eligible to apply for membership, a person needs to:

- Have purchased their sit-on-top kayak from 'Kayaks at Mike the Bike' / 'Kayak Shack'
- Have the necessary skill level and fitness level to undertake at least a 1.5 hour sea journey in a sit-on-top kayak, at a pace that is suitable for the group as a whole ie not too slow and not too fast!
- Behave in the best interests of the club.
- Have completed 2 trial trips

All membership applications must be approved by the committee.

How do I arrange a trial trip with the club?

In the interests of safety, anyone wishing to undertake a trial trip needs to submit a booking form to, and discuss their intention with the trip leader in advance. They may undertake the trial trip if the trip leader is reasonably satisfied that they fulfil the criteria below:

The person needs to:

- Be eligible to apply for membership
- Have the necessary skill level and fitness level to undertake the trip, at a pace that is suitable for the group as a whole.

How much does membership cost?

2012 Membership rates are as follows:

Adult - 18 years or over on first day of January of current calendar year - £25.00
(£8 of this fee is for CANI Affiliated Membership)

Junior - Under the age of 18 on first day of January of current calendar year - £15.00
(£5 of this fee is for CANI Affiliated Membership)

The membership year is the same as the calendar year.

How can I find out more about the club?

More information about the club can be found at www.kayakshack.com

Alternatively, please contact Gary Harkness, Club Chairman or Julie Harkness, Club Secretary via email kayakshack@ymail.com or telephone 028 91 811311 during shop hours.