

Stirling and Trossachs Scout District



WATNEWS issue 2 - Sept 2018

A bi-annual newsletter for those involved with the delivery of water activities at Inverrossachs

Issue 2 brings news of the planned refurbishment of water facilities at Inverrossachs, pool training sessions, new equipment in the process of being purchased, the planned programme for 2019, and other snippets.

Looking back

It's been quite a busy boating season at Inverrossachs, more so over the April-June period. The centre served as an activity hub for Lowland Adventure, a National scout event based this year at Strathallan Castle. Held in early May, bell boating, canoeing and mountain biking sessions were run at Inverrossachs over two days and several members of the Inverrossachs Water Activity Team were roped in to help.

Later in May we ran **SPLOSH**, a day for cub packs in the District, which was a thoroughly enjoyable event attended by almost 60 cubs and leaders. The new XXS buoyancy aids were well used that day.

A number of groups in the district made use of the boats over the season, members of the **Water Activities Team** ran some sessions for visiting groups, and of course **DRENCH** was held earlier this month, a fantastic event at which many of you helped.



Drench 2018

Altogether the craft will have been used on over 20 separate occasions over the summer.

End of season – a reminder

As intimated in the first issue, the water activity season ends on **30th September**. Requests for water activities after this date will be considered on an individual basis but, as a minimum requirement, a B2 permit holder for kayaking or canoeing will require to be present for all forms of paddle sport. The season will resume on **1st April 2019**

Plans for the future

A new lease for Inverrossachs is being finalised, which will secure the site for the next 20 years, and plans are being prepared for refurbishing the water facilities. It is still our intention to construct a separate site maintenance facility, which will free up a lot of space and reduce the clutter, and to re-configure the existing timber boatshed, leaving the two buildings solely for water activities and equipment. Charlie Rowley is redesigning the interior layout of the timber boat shed to provide increased changing accommodation, a briefing room and improved storage.

If any of you, through your work, have experience of a similar sort of development and would be willing to help with this project then please get in touch with Charlie.

Reporting damaged or faulty equipment

Any damaged or faulty equipment making a boat unserviceable must be reported as soon as possible and a **"DO NOT USE"** tag must be attached immediately. These are located in the changing room in the timber boat shed (adjacent to the fire extinguisher). It should then be reported to Charlie, Mark or Colin (see below).

Boats with one of these tags must not be used until repaired and the tag removed.

Kayak Pool training 2019

We intend running more pool sessions in the New Year along similar lines to last year i.e. 2 Saturday mornings, 2½ hours each. Bannockburn High School pool is booked for 23rd February and 23rd March. So if you know of anyone who would like to try kayaking or would be interested in gaining a permit then let them know. Information will be sent out in early November via the groups.

Canoe Training

For those wanting to develop their canoeing skills, Mark is willing to offer additional training in this discipline but this would have to take place at Inverrossachs. Please contact Mark if you are interested (see below).

Outline programme: October 2018 until September 2019

SAT 27th Oct 2018	Canoe Session at Inverrossachs
2019	
SAT 23rd Feb	Pool Session at Bannockburn Pool
SAT 2nd Mar	Canoe Session at Inverrossachs
SAT 23rd Mar	Pool Session at Bannockburn Pool
SAT 13th Apr	Loch Session at Inverrossachs
SAT 27th Apr	SPLISH / Canoe Session (pm) at Inverrossachs
SAT 4th May	Loch Session at Inverrossachs
SUN 19th May	B1 Assessment
SAT 25 th /SUN 26 th	SPLASH
SAT 1st June	B1 Assessment
FRI 6 th - SUN 8 th Sept	DROOKIT

SPLISH – Annual check of all equipment followed by a bit of fun on the water (adults only)

SPLASH – District Scout water activities day – help required from rest of the TEAM

DROOKIT – District Explorer Scout water activity day - help required from rest of the TEAM

Water Activities Core Team

▪ Charlie Rowley	charlierowley@hotmail.co.uk
▪ Mark Wright	markwright410@hotmail.com
▪ Ben Rowley	benjaminrowley@btinternet.com
▪ Colin Smith	chs6@talktalk.net
▪ David Wilson	d.wilson307@btinternet.com

New equipment

We are in the process of purchasing the following:

- 4 spray decks for the Piranha Master TG Club kayaks
- 2 Throw lines
- 2 Towlines
- 10 helmets

List of Equipment

For your information, please find listed below the equipment we will have available once the above purchases have been made.

2 x Bell boats & paddles, together with 2 x launching trolleys

4 x Canadian canoes & paddles

16 x single Kayaks & paddles

1 x Safety boat, 6 hp outboard and launching trolley

30 helmets

10 x XXS buoyancy aids (Palm - yellow)

20 x Junior buoyancy aids (Crewsaver - red with purple lining)

20 x Small/Medium buoyancy aids (Crewsaver - red with green lining)

12 x Medium/Large buoyancy aids (Crewsaver - red with red lining)

10 x Large/XLarge buoyancy aids (Crewsaver – red with blue lining)

4 x Throw lines

2 x Towlines