

SCOTTISH COASTAL ROWING ASSOCIATION

TWEED ROW – Sunday 25th September

Crews to meet at the RNLI station, Dock Road in Tweedmouth at 9.00am Sunday 25th September. A decision will be made to either launch at the slip there or proceed to the Berwick Sailing Club in Sandstell Road, next left along Dock Road, and launch across the sand.

Trailers and cars can be left in the car park next to the sailing club.

Safety boat cover is kindly being provided by Johnny Johnson from Eyemouth. NB. As there is only the one safety boat accompanying us, please remember that this is not a race and all skiffs should stay within a reasonable distance of each other.

There will be costs incurred by the safety boat so I would ask for a contribution of £1 per person (crews and other guests who join us at Paxton) to both cover this and provide something for Paxton House who have waved the normal £4 fee for anyone coming with the SCRA including non-rowers. Also attached is a parking sheet, which must be placed in the windscreen of any vehicles with spare crews and other guests, so the staff at the house know who is with the SCRA.

The distance to Paxton House is approx 5 miles. This is a longer distance than normal for most of us, so please pace yourselves. Also crews may want to take an extra member on board to allow swap out of the cox +1 if anyone gets too tired.

Similarly, there is a steep beach on the southern side of the river before it passes under the A1 Berwick bypass should any group wish to change crews on the upstream leg. This is accessible by the road to the left off Rotary Way (A698), which runs from the roundabout on the A1 bypass at East Ord towards Tweedmouth. It is marked private road, but goes down to the sewage works, so is not a problem.

The upstream leg will be the more difficult of the two, so when selecting the crews, you may want to put the stronger members in this leg – if you have more than one crew that is.

On a similar note, as this is not a race, there is no reason to stop mixed crews from different clubs rowing together. There are many discussions ongoing about oars, thole pins, kabes and foot-rests etc. This could be an opportunity to share our ideas and help clarify some of these elements from a practical side rather than just waiting for edicts from the centre. (A bit of skiffer power)

The route. The Tweed has various shallows, dependant on the tide, so skiffs should follow the channel to avoid any issues. The following is the upstream route

Key points in this are the bridges, the narrows at west Ord and the mud flats upstream from the Royal Border bridge.

1. The old road bridge. Take the second arch from the northern bank on the right. This is the widest and highest arch and being the first bridge we pass through, the water level will be at its lowest for us, so we may have to wait a short while so the tide reaches an equilibrium with the flow of the river. Note. We are launching from the other side of the river, so will be crossing it to get to this arch.
2. Next is the new town road bridge. Stay on the same side of the river as you pass under this bridge. The spans are much broader and the bridge higher, so no constriction.
3. The Royal Border Bridge (Railway) Cross towards the southern left side as you approach this bridge, taking the 3rd/4th arches from that bank. The flow can be quite strong between the arches of this bridge and the width, although adequate is not great, so just be cautious.
4. Once through, the river bends to the south / left. There is a small hut like construction on the mud bank in front of you. Stay to the north/ right of this otherwise you will end up in a muddy cul-de-sac.
5. Just before the river bends to the right is the beach mentioned above, if there is anyone wanting to change crews at this point.
6. River bends to the right and under the A1 Berwick bypass bridge. The channel is good and deep at this point.
7. To the right, the river Whitadder flows into the Tweed. Be aware of the current caused by this as you pass it.
8. From there stay in the centre of the river for the deepest channel as it continues towards West Ord.
9. At West Ord, stay in the centre of the river. There is an island to the right of you on the northern side and at the far end of this a sand bar to the left resulting in a narrow fast flowing section at low tide. The tide should be in sufficiently for the sand bar to be covered and the flow at the narrow section slow enough for us to pass through without difficulty.
10. It will now be a gentle row along the border, which runs up the centre of the river from this point to Paxton House, where you will see the beach on the right/north bank.

For a good view of the river, check the satellite view from Google maps. 3 images attached giving most of the route to just below Paxton.

We hope to be at Paxton for about 12.00, 2hours before high water in Berwick to give us time for a picnic.

Crews should bring their own picnic/refreshments, though Paxton House does have a tea-room where you can buy soup and sandwiches and even a full roast dinner if you have worked up enough of an appetite.

The return to Tweedmouth is scheduled to start at about 3.00pm from Paxton, but this depends on how we find the row up went.

To drive to Paxton house, take the B6461 from the A1 bypass and follow the signs. Don't forget to display the parking page.

Also while at Paxton, other visitors to the house may come down to check out the skiffs, so an opportunity for us to promote the Association.

SAFETY:

As mentioned, skiffs should keep reasonably close to allow the safety boat to provide adequate cover.

The two reasons for cancelling are strong winds, especially westerly and heavy rain, causing the river to be in spate. If there are obvious problems forecast then an email will be sent out in advance. Otherwise the final decision will be made on the day.

The safety boat will be carrying a length of rope to assist any boats get through any faster flowing sections on the upstream leg if having difficulty. This is not seen as an issue coming back.

As well as an extra crew member to give others a rest, this person can be look-out for any obstruction/debris coming down the river.

As with regattas, all crews should ensure they have lifejackets and are carrying radios and the other safety equipment specified by the SCRA.

AND FINALLY

Salmon it appears are religious and cannot be fished on a Sunday, quite apart from the need for licences so we will have to leave the fishing challenge till another day.

AND Further...see next page for maps

