

Calder Marathon,
South Pennine Boat Club,
Wood Lane, Mirfield. WF14 0ED

Introduction:

The following is a risk assessment carried out in preparation for the “Calder Marathon” to be held by Pennine Canoe Club at South Pennine Boat Club (SPBC), Mirfield on Sunday 16th June 2013.

This risk assessment is prepared by Pete Lawton (Pennine Canoe Club Marathon Organiser).

The competitors, spectators and officials will congregate at SPBC, within the compound. The SPBC Jetty will be used for ingress/egress. The Pear Tree Jetty (Public House on the opposite side of the river) will be used as the start/finish point.

All races will start/finish at SPBC/Pear Tree, about 200m upstream of Battyeford Lock.

2-mile races will go downstream, into the Mirfield Cut (through Ledgard Flood Gate) turning just after Bull Bridge (nr.18) and returning to SPBC.

4-mile races will go downstream, into the Mirfield Cut (through Ledgard Flood Gate) turning at Shepley Bridge Lock (by Mirfield Marina) and returning to SPBC.

8-mile races will go downstream, into the Mirfield Cut (through Ledgard Flood Gate) turning at Shepley Bridge Lock (by Mirfield Marina) and returning as far as Battyeford Lock, where they will portage into Battyeford Cut. At the end of the cut, they will go through the Flood gate and turn in the river, returning immediately into the cut. This route will then be reversed (Battyeford Lock, Ledgard, Shepley Marina, return to SPBC).

General:

The river level will be monitored prior to the race by checking both the environment agency website and the physical depth marker at Ledgard bridge. We will also check local weather forecasts for potential rainfall.

Pennine Canoe Club members have paddled this stretch of water on a weekly basis for many years and are aware of the variety of the river levels and how it affects the course – and not least that rainfall outside Mirfield can lead to closure of Ledgard Flood Lock. If the Flood Lock is closed, this will reduce the scope of the potential race route (as detailed above). In this situation, we will consider if the river is safe to paddle. If it is, we will alter the course to be one of repeated loops from SPBC, around the old bridge stanchion above the weir and back to SPBC. Suitable safety cover will be placed at the bridge stanchion. If not safe to paddle, the race will be cancelled.

All Race Officials (e.g. marshalls and support/rescue paddlers) will attend the pre-race briefing. Turn marshalls will be provided with copies of the race sheets so that they can count off all boats that are due to pass through their area of responsibility. Marshalls will also have a list of contact mobile telephone numbers so that each is able to contact the other at all times.

Officials and senior club members will carry out an inspection of canoe buoyancy & individual's buoyancy aids to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

At time of writing, Shepley Bridge Lock (Lock Nr.11) at the Marina turn is 'broken' and out of service – and I understand unlikely to be fixed before the event. This will mean that there will only be minimal traffic along the cut. The event date is NOT one of the regular Open Days (with boat trips) that Shepley Marina often hold.

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Safety Briefing:

There will be a safety briefing for all paddlers taking place after all competitors have registered. This will take place 15mins before race commencement and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Overview of the race route (a plan of which will be on display from start of registration) pointing out any known hazards; landmarks; direction of river flow; river level; turn points; start/finish lines; ingress/egress points.
- Procedures in event of capsize, or paddler in need of assistance
- Requirements for paddlers to wear suitable buoyancy aid
- Need to cover cuts/scratches and remind paddlers of the dangers of infections (e.g. leptospirosis)
- Importance of washing hands etc before eating/drinking. (Wet Wipes & Anti-bacterial hand gel will be provided)
- Awareness of where turn marshalls will be and who will be providing safety cover in between (e.g. some safety cover paddlers will wait at perceived hazard areas, while others will follow the younger or less experienced paddlers)
- Pointing out who are the qualified Aquatic First Aiders

Key personnel:

The following persons will hold overall responsibility for the areas detailed in the Known Risks&Hazards table at the end of this document :

- David Jefferies - Race Marshalling
- Viv Kendrick - Off Water management, First Aid, Timekeeping
- Martin Haughton - Safety Cover

Each of the above are BCU Coaches and Aquatic First Aiders.

In addition, Pete Lawton is responsible for the general organisation and administration of the event.

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Event Risk Assessment Form

Event : Calder1 Marathon		Event Date: 03 April 2011		Venue: Greenwood Cut		Organiser: Pete Lawton	
Hazards Identified	Persons at Risk	Risk Factor (High / Medium / Low)	Measures Required To Control The Risk	Action To Be Taken By (Name)	Date Completed & Signature		
Drowning	Novice Competitors	Low	Support/rescue paddlers will be on the water at strategic points as well as following those paddlers in the risk group for the duration of the race.	Martin Haughton			
Collision	Children and Novice Competitors	Low	<p>* Ingress/egress points will be supervised</p> <p>* Race starts will be staggered to prevent bunching up either at the start or during the race.</p> <p>* Marshall placed on the bridge at the flood gate to look-out for river traffic and warn paddlers to take care &/or give way as necessary</p>	<p>Viv Kendrick</p> <p>Viv Kendrick</p> <p>David Jefferies</p>			
Injury (e.g. through falling/tripping)	Competitors	Low	The SPBC Jetty is in regular use and in good order. If an accident was to occur, there will be qualified first aiders	Viv Kendrick			

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			available all with mobile phones. A First Aid Kit will be readily available	All	
Infection (e.g. cuts/abrasions from broken glass etc)	Paddlers & Spectators	Low	* Any issues during the event will be dealt with by the officials &/or first aider as per above risk	Viv Kendrick	
Capsizing	All Paddlers	Low	* Maximum paddlers per race will be limited, with races being split per division if necessary. This will reduce the risk at the race start.	Viv Kendrick	
			* Marshalls will be placed at all turn points, and at the junction of the river to the Cut	David Jefferies	
			* Support/rescue paddlers will be on the water both at strategic points as well as following the junior or less experienced paddlers for the duration of the race	Martin Haughton	
			* River levels will be monitored prior to the event & checked on the day.	Pete Lawton	
			* If necessary, the race will be cancelled	Dave Jefferies	

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Name of assessor: Pete Lawton

(print)

Signature: _____

Date: 21st May 2013