



Hampton Canoe Club

NOTES FOR TOURERS

HOW DOES A TOUR DIFFER FROM AN IMPROVERS SESSION?

An Improvers Session is for newly-qualified One Star paddlers, so they can build experience and stamina. Any One Star paddler can come to such a session: the slower paddlers set the pace and the weaker paddlers determine the distance.

A tour goes where and as far as the trip leader intends to go. Paddlers asking to join the trip are implying that they have the skills and stamina to complete such a trip at a reasonable pace. On a tour, trip leaders only take along people they believe can complete the trip.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BE ON A TOUR?

Just be a willing one-star plus paddler, and let the trip leader know, at least 48 hours before the trip, you want to come along; include your mobile number. Usually, one star skill level will suffice unless the trip leader has said they're looking for a higher standard.

Hamptoneers just pay boat fees. If somebody else is giving you or your boat a lift, you can always offer to pay some petrol money or drive them next time.

You'll need to be fit enough for the distance proposed; if in doubt, discuss it with the trip leader. Of course, sometimes you'll challenge yourself and go a bit beyond your comfort zone, which is fine. If the trip leader is in doubt – maybe they don't know you or haven't seen you for a while – they may have queries. Their aim is for everybody to be safe and happy while completing the trip. Sometimes there may be places to stop and wait for the group to turn and come back if you are feeling tired.

You'll take responsibility for being prepared for the trip. You'll arrange for the boat you're paddling, your BA and paddle, to get to the start and back again. You'll have suitable kit – full details are now on our website. You'll have suitable food and drink. If you can, bring along your sociable side and your sense of humour. This includes knowing that sometimes things go awry and plans won't turn out as expected.

Once you've signed up, you'll let the trip leader know if you won't be coming along; and, once the trip has started, you'll let them know if you are leaving the group. If the trip leader decides the trip is not for you, which they might do occasionally, you're stuck with that decision – neither the chairman nor any committee member will override it. That doesn't mean you shouldn't try another trip on a different day, going on tours is all about finding out what suits you as a paddler.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THE TRIP LEADER?

A safe, pleasant trip (which may be modified if conditions are poor).

Letting you know what the final plans are.

If there's an event, such as a capsize, they will take charge and they may ask you to lend a hand, or to go to a safe place.