

Tyne Tour Brochure 2009

Please read this document.

All paddlers must sign the declaration on ticket applications to confirm that you have read this brochure. Feel free to copy it and if you lose it please ask for another copy.

What your ticket covers

Use of the campsite at Tyne Green, free parking, access to rivers and a water release from Kielder Reservoir, giving 50km. of reliable white water from grade 1 to grade 3+.

Use of shuttle buses for drivers between Wark, Barrasford and Hexham and Haydon Bridge and Hexham.

Access to Wentworth Leisure Centre in Hexham for toilets and showers all weekend.

Access to video and slide shows on Saturday from 6pm. at the Wentworth Leisure Centre.

Entry to Saturday nights Ceilidh from 8pm. to midnight.

Entry to the Tyne Descent Race on the Saturday. **Please note that the 2009 race will be from Barrasford to Hexham as it has been for the last three years.**

Find Us On The Web: www.tynetour.co.uk for updates, latest news etc.

How to get to Hexham

If you are travelling from North or South you can use either the A1 or the M6. If using the A1 head for Newcastle upon Tyne and then take the A69 to the West. Signposts will show Hexham and Carlisle. Hexham is about 25 minutes drive from the A1 junction. Alternatively, if using the M6 you need to get onto the A69 Carlisle-Newcastle road at Junction 43 and travel east. Leave the A69 at the Hexham roundabout and take a right turn at the next roundabout after about 150m and you will find Tyne Green.

On arrival our welcoming team will meet you. Please have your tickets ready for inspection. You will be directed to the campsite. Stewards will be on hand to assist you with parking etc.

Please do not park on the verge of the Tyne Green lane opposite the Green, use the bays on the same side as the Green, once the bays are full use the overflow car park. Parking on the verge causes congestion resulting in frustrated paddlers & locals.

The Information Tent at Tyne Green will be open until midnight on Friday. We hope to have regular updates on water conditions throughout the weekend.

Hexham itself is a fairly typical Northumberland market town with a range of shops, supermarkets, pubs (some of which sell real ale) and restaurants. The nearest supermarket to the campsite is Waitrose and is adjacent to the Wentworth Leisure Centre; there is also a 24-hour Tesco supermarket in Hexham.

The Ceilidh

The Saturday night Ceilidh has over the years proved to be highly successful night. The band will as usual be using a caller. So, those of you who have not danced like this before should have no worries about making a mess of things. You will need to produce your Ceilidh ticket to get into the Hall (don't lose it, you have been warned!)

Tyne Green Campsite

The area used for camping is not normally a campsite. Amenities are therefore limited to basic toilet facilities, with showers and more toilets available at the recently reopened Wentworth Leisure Centre. Drinking water will be available from pipes on the site. This is Tynedale Council's land and we have to observe their camping regulations, copies of which will be available from the Information Tent. Because of the risk of fire **please** take note of the fire safety information and be aware that campers who infringe these safety rules will be asked to leave.

We will pre-allocate camping spaces for large groups (more than ten people). Please check with the Information Tent where your group has been placed. We will try and reserve the area furthest along Tyne Green for small groups who would prefer a quieter camping experience.

Tyne Green is the only recognized campsite in use by the tour. Any alternative arrangements made by tour paddlers are outside the organizers responsibility. **Wild camping is not allowed or condoned.**

Caravans & trailer tents will only be accepted by prior booking, we can only accommodate a small number; caravans that have not pre-booked **will** be turned away.

Tent Spacing

Each tent must be no less than 3 metres from any other tent and there must be a clear space of 6 metres between groups

Please understand that this is for your own safety, reducing the risk of a tent fire spreading among other tents. If you fail to observe this, you **will** be asked to move your tent by the organisers upon receiving a complaint from your neighbours.

Fire Points

There will be four fire points on Tyne Green; it's your responsibility to familiarize yourself with their position, looking for them while your tent burns causes unnecessary distress.

If you discover a fire raise the alarm by shouting, "**FIRE**" and dial 999 on the nearest phone. The closest pay phone will be outside the information tent.

Catering

Unfortunately the café on Tyne Green is closed, but we have invited a number of mobile food outlets onto Tyne Green and they will be open to provide bacon sandwiches, tea, coffee etc. from Friday lunchtime until early Friday evening. They will also be open on Saturday and Sunday. The Golf Club House at the far end of Tyne Green will also be serving food and drink and there will be a mobile coffee van at Barrasford car park.

Please ensure that you keep Tyne Green tidy. Ask at the Information Tent for rubbish bags. There will be two rubbish skips, one near to the Information tent, and one further up Tyne Green please put your rubbish in them. We have asked Tynedale Council to provide recycling facilities, but we do not yet know whether they will be available.

As people will be arriving at all hours of the night it is inevitable that there will be noise on the campsite. Please try and keep this to a minimum.

River Access

The Tyne Access Agreement

The Tyne System has one of England's most favorable access agreements, maintained by the local BCU access network. Please note, Barrasford is only used for access and parking on the Tyne Tour weekend by special arrangement with the landowner. If you require further information please go to the information tent.

Please be discreet when changing and if caught short. (This is a sensitive issue that has caused concern in previous years.) There will be toilets at Barrasford and at Wark.

Warden Gorge

Warden Gorge is near the end of the 7-mile Barrasford to Hexham section of the North Tyne. This is an access "hot spot" there is absolutely **NO PORTAGING OR INSPECTION, this will be marshalled and enforced**. If you start this section you will have to paddle it. The Tyne Tour takes advantage of a seasonal water release from Kielder Reservoir, significantly increasing the river's volume, which can make Warden Gorge into grade III – IV. If you are a river leader then it's up to you to determine if your group members are capable to paddle this section. In past years, it has been obvious that some group leaders have taken novices down this section of river; this places people in danger and **we strongly deplore this practice**. We will be monitoring this and reserve the right to take action against organised groups that disregard this warning.

Access and egress points

Please use only agreed access points. Most of these will be sign posted.

Stewards will be on hand to advise on parking at the main access and egress points. Your co-operation with these unpaid volunteers will ensure that they also have an enjoyable weekend.

Do not obstruct access to people's homes or field gateways etc. Any business, farmer or resident of the area who has your vehicle removed, will receive our full support. Be aware that some of us live in the area and have to answer to our neighbours!

It is essential that people should NOT attempt to portage Warden Gorge. (This is a site of special scientific interest as well as being private property)

Do not access or egress the North Tyne at Chollerford. Although this is normally accepted practice this is a "no go" area on this weekend due to traffic hazards.

Please do not park in the Cement Works entrance at Acomb. Apart from the wagons leaving the yard this road **MUST** be accessible to emergency vehicles. Anyone parking here apart from those authorised to do so will be removed.

Vehicular hazard on the North Tyne – the vehicle carriageway at Wark Bridge (the rickety metal structure over the North Tyne at Wark) has been narrowed and there is a width restriction of 2m. This won't be a problem for cars, but it will be a pinch for mini-buses and we would advise against taking trailers across. There is an alternative route from Hexham to Wark avoiding the bridge, which goes via Barrasford.

Parking space at Bellingham is limited. It may be necessary to unload your vehicle and park in the village. Be sure that you do not obstruct access to the Fire Station.

Safety!!

All participants in this event are responsible for their own individual and group safety so please:

Ask for information regarding any river hazards.

Remember that the river level can change rapidly and this **will** affect your group risk assessment.

A team of experienced paddlers will be based on Warden Gorge to provide advice and assistance. **The presence of safety cover on the Gorge does not replace your own group control and safety measures.** Novice paddlers should ***NOT*** attempt this section of river nor should they portage this section because of ***Serious*** access problems. This is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Novices ***Must*** get out at Barrasford. We will monitor this and reserve the right to take action against organised groups that disregard this warning. All paddlers considering paddling water over grade 2 **must be experienced and able to paddle to that standard and understand current rescue techniques**

Inspect Barrasford Rapid, (river left) as this is a fast flowing, narrow and shallow shoot with large boulders in the main flow. There is a high possibility of getting pinned. This is not advisable for Novice or Open boats. Look out for the warning signs.

Ensure that you are properly equipped following BCU recommendations with CE marked buoyancy aids and helmets on **All** rivers and **All** disciplines.

Use canoes or kayaks with proper buoyancy and grab handles and take a throw line.

Open canoes attempting Warden Gorge **must** have enough buoyancy to float the canoe safely if capsized.

Carry a first aid kit, split paddles, survival bags and any other safety equipment and **know how to use it!**

Do not depend on other paddlers for your group's safety.

Please ensure that the Stewards at the Information tent are advised of any incidents as soon as possible.

On the Saturday the Tyne Descent Race will pass through Warden Gorge between 12.15pm and 1.30pm. Please give way to competitors. They will be wearing bibs.

Be aware that darkness falls at about 4pm. Please use your own judgment and be off the river **Before** dark. Do not set off unless your journey will end before night fall.

Insurance

All paddlers using the North Tyne and South Tyne from Haydon Bridge on this weekend are considered to be part of the Tour. You must have third party insurance in case of an accident, e.g. if you collide with another paddler and they incur hospital costs. **We insist that you have appropriate third party insurance.** Do not think you will not have an accident because these things only happen to other people. If in doubt check your insurance policy or speak with your broker or insurance company. To make things a little easier please note the following:

Individual BCU members resident in the UK have the necessary cover, but must sign on at the information tent and produce a current BCU membership card.

Registered members of affiliated BCU clubs resident in the UK have the necessary cover, but must sign on at the information tent and produce your club affiliation.

Some boat insurance policies provide appropriate cover.

We are able to provide third party insurance at £3.00 per person through the BCU taster scheme. This is payable in advance, please apply on the Ticket Application Form and complete the necessary paperwork on the weekend.

University, Scout and youth groups should ensure that their policy covers them.

If you have any doubts about your Insurance please check this out well in advance of the weekend. This is your responsibility.

Where does all the money go?

The Tyne Tour is organized by Hexham Canoe Club on behalf of the BCU Northern Region. It is the main source of income for the BCU Northern Region. All profits from the event go back into canoeing in the Region. Profits from previous years have helped support a wide range of initiatives in the Region. Have a good weekend and hopefully we shall see you next year.

Feedback.

The Tyne Tour is organised and run by and for canoeists. Many of them will give up the opportunity to paddle on this weekend in an attempt to let you paddle "their" local rivers. Mistakes and errors will no doubt occur. However, we would hope that if you do have a complaint that you let us, the organisers, know about it. Please do this in writing to the address below. Constructive criticism is welcomed and **ALL** feedback received by 30th November 2009 will receive a written reply.

Tyne Tour
PO BOX, 155
Hexham,
NE46 2WY.

Acknowledgements.

We wish to thank the following groups and organisations who have helped make this event possible:

The many Land Owners in Tynedale without whose consent canoeing would be difficult.

Anne and Roy Coe

The staff at Northumberland County Council

The Owners of Hexham Mart.

Northumbria Water.

The Environment Agency.

Hexham & QEHS Rowing Clubs.

The residents of Tynedale.

The volunteers from the regions Canoe Clubs.

The many individuals who have so willingly, and at times unwillingly, put their time and effort into this event.

Everyone who supports the event by attending.

Tyne Tour 2009 organising committee of Hexham Canoe Club