

# Canoe England Club of the Year Awards 2010

This year's Canoe England Club of the Year Awards saw a record number of clubs being nominated to compete for this prestigious title. With support from Towergate tlc, the awards offer the opportunity for the top three clubs to win up to £700 in cash as well as the opportunity to battle it out against other sports club in the CCPR Sports Club of the Year Awards later in the year.



## Club of the Year 2010: Kingston Kayak Club

Based within the tenth most deprived city in England, the 30 year old club has embraced and recognised the issues facing the people of Hull. The club are determined to continue providing opportunities to local people – from 7yrs up to 73 - and last year alone organised sessions and courses for disadvantage children; children with learning difficulties; and young unemployed people. Kingston also provided a six week course at a care facility for problem teenagers; as well as raised money for Help the Hero's. Kingston Kayak Club are also keen to encourage the competitive side of canoeing and host an annual ranking slalom and Hull International Canoe Polo event. Kingston Kayak Club is definitely a club for everyone!



## Runner Up: Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club

The club offers opportunities to the community working closely with the local council, Baptist church, scouts and guide groups as well as the Canal Authority to ensure the water remains litter free. The club works with young offenders through the Domestic Violence unit of Hampshire Police and Youth Service and are actively working with Aldershot based charity KC21 which supports disadvantaged children. A new initiative sees the club provide weekly sessions to encourage older people and women to canoe in a child-free environment. The club also link with Blackwater Valley Canoe Club to enter a combined team in the SW youth polo league. Volunteers work hard to maintain the success of the club and younger members have formed their own committee. As organisers of the annual Hasler Marathon, Basingstoke balance a family orientated club with the professional organisation of a national event.



## Runner Up: Banbury Canoe Club

Taking advantage of their Oxfordshire location bordering two additional counties, they have also reached out to other local sports clubs to offer the ultimate cross training opportunity. Their links with local triathlon, running, and swimming clubs ensures that not only can their members get a well balanced all-round training programme but that more people get a taste for canoeing. The club even provides training for Banbury United's youth team. Their links with slalom and polo specialists Cherwell Canoe Club compliments the racing and touring which is on offer at Banbury and their partnerships extend to local schools and groups including the guides, scouts, and the air, sea and army cadets. Forefront to the club, is their desire to encourage as many people as possible to canoe – they even take their ergo's to local shopping centres and rural communities to provide taster sessions.