

Lir Canoe Club

Canoeing Ireland offer a great service to clubs whereby they will lend a fleet of boats for a period of up to three months. This is designed to encourage clubs to try out other disciplines, without requiring them to make an initial investment. The service makes a big difference to small clubs who would not otherwise have the resources to try out the different paddling disciplines. This summer, Lir Canoe Club made use of Canoeing Ireland's fleet of sea kayaks, and it was a huge success. We borrowed six sea kayaks and paddles, which was plenty for a small club like us. James O'Reilly, an instructor with Canoeing Ireland, ran a rolling and rescue session for sea kayaking which several of us attended, and it proved incredibly beneficial. The rescues are remarkably different for sea kayaking, so having this knowledge and having done some practice meant we were more confident on the water, but thankfully we didn't have to call on our new skills! Thanks to the Canoeing Ireland loan, we paddled in the Dublin Bay area every week, joining with other sea kayakers in the area. We also did a multi-day trip in Clew Bay with Ali Donald, and we did a multi-day trip from Waterford exploring the Gold Coast. The experience was hugely beneficial to the members and to the club as a whole, and several of us now hope to invest in sea kayaks to keep exploring our coastlines. Many thanks to Canoeing Ireland for this great opportunity, and many thanks to the staff in the CI office who facilitated the logistics of the loan.

Lena Doherty, Lir Canoe Club.