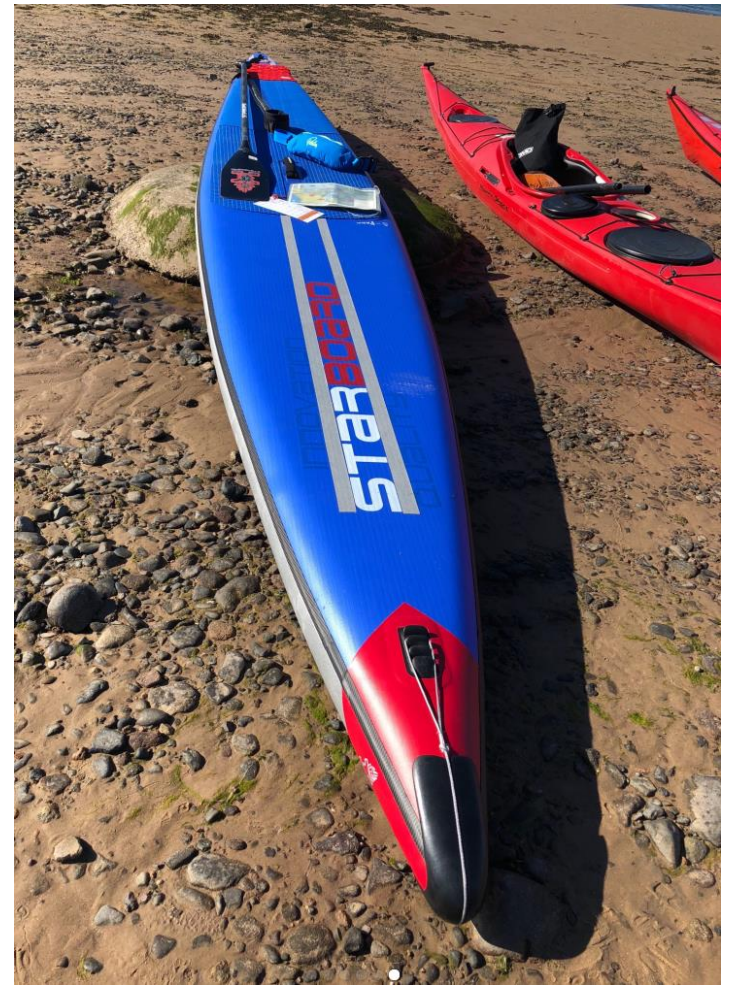


28th April 2018 Seaquest orienteering race on a SUP

A new board had landed in my hands (Starboard Airline Allstar Unlimited 18'x27") so I was desperate to get it wet and after the previous weeks SUP Camping trip in Portugal was inspired to do something a little different

Seaquest is an annual orienteering race hosted by Copeland Canoe Club and runs in the 3 estuaries that converge at Ravenglass.

The format is simple – at the briefing you are given a map of the area with the checkpoints marked on (each with a different value) – you then have 30 minutes before the start to plan your route with the aim of collecting as many points as possible bearing in mind that the highest value points are the hardest to get to and taking into account the strong currents & falling tide.



I made my way to the start line and looking left & right could quickly see that the fleet was made up of a wide variety of craft & abilities..... Serious racers in OC1's through sea kayaks, K1's and families in canoes – needless to say I was the only SUP.

When the start gun went we all shot off in varied directions – most of the checkpoints were ashore and necessitated beaching the board & running around looking for the flags where our cards could be punched.

After reaching all but one in the first estuary I decided to turn back & head up the next battling in classic wind against tide chop, quickly getting to know the board and its capabilities.

There is a three hour time limit – any extra time taken over this results in points being deducted so with half an hour left it was time for me to turn back & head for the finish line

Overall I skipped 3 checkpoints – next years aim is to get them all but one thing is certain, no matter how well you do, this bunch of paddlers will give all-comers a very warm welcome.

[Click here for Garmin track & stats for the day](#)

