

TKBN trip IJ lake

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Last sunday march 30th, a trip had been planned by the TKBN paddling union from the Almeerderzand to Durgerdam and back. As Tom had obligations elsewhere, I left for Flevoland very early after a short night's sleep (the clock had been put forward that night for daylight saving). After about a quarter of an hour the first of the other paddlers started to arrive. After the usual hello's and how-are-you's we could unload and pack our boats.

The training purposes of this trip were forward paddling technique and taking compass fixes. After some instruction on paddling technique by Marc and Hannie, the group was split up into two smaller ones of 11 people each. The group I was going to paddle with then went to the water with instructors Jan Akkerman and Wouter van Hamersveld. We first set the courses needed for the first leg to Pampus Island and then boarded our boats. Once everyone was on the water we crossed the shipping channel to Muiderzand, from where we paddled westwards inside the ring-islands aiming for the Muiden breakwaters. A few ladies needed some encouragement because the southwesterly wind (4 bft) on the port beam could be a nuisance for those without a skeg. Once in the vicinity of the last of the ring-islands, we alter course downwind and headed north for Pampus island, where we sheltered in the lee a bit. After about 15 minutes rest, we then headed course 275 to the IJtoren lighthouse at the Buitenij breakwaters. That took us into the full (by then 5 bft) wind and the for this water typically short and confused waves. Those 50 cm high waves can be tricky as Wouter soon experienced. Before he had the time to realise that his normal hipmove wasn't going to keep him on top of things, he found himself in the water. The two nearest paddlers rapidly got him into his boat again and after some pumping we got back underway. Without any further trouble we soon reached the breakwaters and set course for Durgerdam. Once there we got out of our boats at the harbour and put the boats on the dike. Jan Akkerman had to be helped out of his boat since he had hurt his knee the evening before and could hardly walk, let alone get into or out-of his boat.

Because of the chilly wind and light showers, we soon decided to lunch in the local pub around the corner. Soon everyone was back in shape and behind a pea- or onion soup and coffee. After having rested there for an hour, we all went back to the harbour, put Jan back into his boat and headed for the lighthouse again. From that point you have a great view of the IJ-lake and we safely crossed the shipping channel. We then headed directly into the wind to the PEN-island. Once there we practiced taking compass fixes on the Muiderslot(130), Pampus island(70) and the IJtoren lighthouse(330). then we took a course 120 and cut directly to the ring-islands above Muiderzand. While doing that we regularly had to recall Hans who took off like the wind. The last leg of the trip we paddled along the shipping channel to the Hollandse brug until buoy IJM6 from where we cut diagonally across the marina entrance to the Almeerderzand (that wasn't real smart offcourse, but when you're tired...). Once arrived at the Almeerderzand it turned out the other group had just arrived as well. Despite having had a hard trip due to my boat heavily turning into the wind over the last 2 kilometers, I look back on a satisfying trip.

Dick