

# PHOENIX CANOE CLUB

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION GUIDELINES FOR BLUE GREEN ALGAE

It is common in the warm months for algae's to form in the water. A strain called Cyanobacteria (often known as Blue Green Algae) can contain toxic chemicals that pose a threat to wild and domestic animals, fish and also humans.

The algae bloom forms on the surface of the water and can accumulate downwind forming a scum on the lakeshore that looks like blue-green paint. People, especially children and domestic animals should avoid contact with the concentrated scum, which may be toxic.

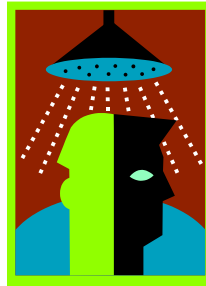
Algal toxins can cause illnesses such as dermatitis, gastro-enteritis, atypical pneumonia and hepatoenteritis in humans. Symptoms of these include skin rashes, eye irritation, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever and pains in muscles and joints in those that swallow or swim through concentrated scums.

Cyanobacteria blooms and scum's are not always toxic and it is not always possible to tell from its appearance whether a bloom or scum is harmful.

The above text is based on Environment Agency information obtained from their website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

The Phoenix Canoe Club do not have any confirmation that Cyanobacteria is polluting the water of the Welsh Harp Reservoir or other waters that we use, however, as a precaution, we would recommend that all canoeists who come in contact with the water, wash their hands thoroughly as soon as they leave the water. In the event of a confirmed outbreak, until the algae have cleared, avoid capsizing, Eskimo rolls and rescues. Anyone capsizing should use the shower in the Changing Rooms and all canoeists should bath or shower as soon as they get home.

## NOW WASH YOUR HANDS



## SHOWER AT HOME AFTER CANOEING