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/ Aurélie Goffin

# Tulip Challenge

## Paddling on South Holland canals !



 // The Tulip Challenge was born in April 2008 when two friends, LeJean Coetzee (South Africa) and Alain Duquenoy (France) decided that they would celebrate LeJean's birthday in a different and unique way. Being both experienced Stand-Up Paddlers and admirers of the Dutch tulip fields which bloom for only 4-5 weeks of the year, they set out to take advantage of the natural beauty and uncrowded surrounding canals. Naturally, what started out as two friends spending a relaxing afternoon SUPping through the canals soon turned into a race between two keen sportsmen.

The pair enjoyed the race and surroundings so much that they agreed to share their experience and set their sights on organizing an official Paddle Challenge in 2009 designed to offer watermen interested in visiting the Netherlands an exotic means of transport. The Tulip Challenge took place on the 2nd May 2009 and was a huge success with more than 30 competitors from France, Belgium, Germany and of course the Netherlands.

The four paddling categories (SUP, outrigger, surf ski and paddle board) were well represented by the participants who not only enjoyed the challenge but also the nice weather and friendly spirit. The challenge ended on a high with participants enjoying food from the barbeque, followed by the presentation of certificates and prizes.

After this first success, the Tulipaddle Team (TTT) has decided to organize a second Tulip Challenge which will take place on 17th April 2010. They have stuck to their roots and their motto remains the same : Fun, Pedelen and Tulpen...

The 2010 challenge will once again take place through several of the South-Holland (Zuid-Holland) canals during the tulip flowering season. The race is specifically designed for both fit beginners and experienced watermen who can choose to use either a SUP, paddle board (PB), surf ski (SS1/SS2) or outrigger (OC1/OC2) as their mode of transport.

The main purpose of the challenge is to:

- offer a nice course in a naturally beautiful and

unique environment for watermen;

- allow people to discover a different side of Holland that they might otherwise not get the chance to enjoy;

- discover the legendary and amazing colorful tulip fields;

- provide a race for waterman in safe and quiet surroundings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2009 sponsors who provided us with material support for the 1st challenge: Sipre (sea kayak manufacturer) who provided our tee-shirts for the event and especially Thomas Zachert of Wetiz (life saving products, surf ski,...) who provided crafts (PB, SS1, SUP, OC1) which we were able to lend some competitors who came from far abroad without their own material.

The website [www.tulipaddle.nl](http://www.tulipaddle.nl) displays the main information about the event and we invite you to contact us for any further details.

We hope to see you for the 2nd edition of the Tulipaddle, paddlers !