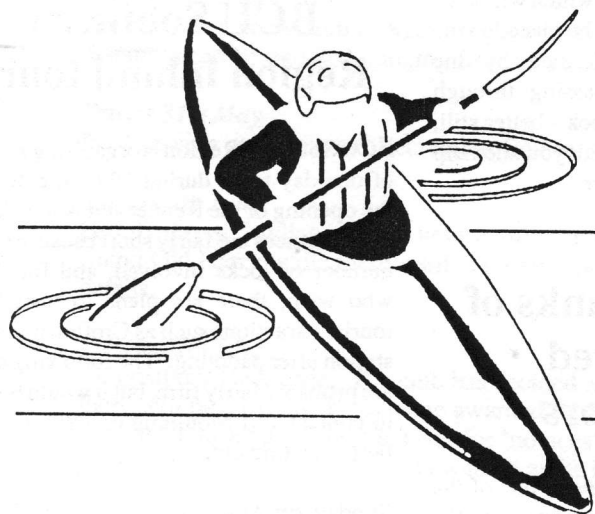

CANES

APRIL 1991



RINGWOOD
CANOE CLUB

CANES

Pulborough to Arundel

One Sunday last November a group of us assembled on the public slipway at Pulborough at 9.30 in the morning, ready to paddle with the tide some 13 miles down the River Arun to Arundel. This particular trip involved some complex logistics. Jackie Deakin and Jill Street drove straight down to Pulborough from London (where they had been staying with Reg, our Capital Member) in order that they could take the children off Barry's hands. Andy did it the other way round - his wife and children dropped him off, and then drove to Arundel to wait for us. After some high-speed car swapping to get things sorted out at the far end, Barry, Steve, Mike, Nick, Andy and Albert finally set off downstream.

The trip was fairly uneventful in terms of hazards, wildlife, etc, but the scenery was superb. In true democratic style, nobody could decide whether to stop for lunch at the one pub we encountered en route, so we ended up munching our sandwiches in a chalk-pit. In fact, some of us had got quite muddy getting up the bank earlier in the morning for a coffee break, so the pub probably had a lucky escape.

Barry had managed to judge the state of the tide to perfection, so we enjoyed a very relaxing paddle in the afternoon. Arundel castle kept appearing and disappearing from view as we rounded various bends in the river, until suddenly we found ourselves right at its foot. The weather had been very good all day, and waited until we had all got changed before it decided to rain. Overall, a very enjoyable day out, though most members felt that it involved rather a long car drive just to paddle on a scenic river. All the more reason to support the BCU's attempt to open up the River Avon to canoeists!

Nick Leatherdale

Mudeford Macho

Barry recently survived a two and a half-hour canoeing session at Mudeford - which included a loop and four Eskimo rolls - with a queen wasp inside his wet suit!

Julian Butler Memorial

Approximately ten people turned up at Bransgore Village Hall on Saturday the 6th April to help plant trees in memory of Julian Butler. Apart from people from Data Track Technology (the company Julian worked for) Barry, Nick and Steve went along to represent RCC. With the help of Paul and Zoe Deakin, the three of us planted a maple and an ash adjacent to the village hall car park - not a small task, given that the trees were some 10 feet tall and consequently demanded large holes!

The group from DTT planted three hornbeams on the edge of the playing field. They plan to obtain a large rock from the quarry at Worth Matravers, which will have a plaque fixed to it and then be placed in the centre of the triangle formed by the hornbeams. If you're passing through Bransgore, go and take a look - better still, take a container of water with you and help ensure that the trees prosper.

Paul joins ranks of Registered Instructors

Following what he describes as one of the coldest half-days he has ever spent on the water, Paul Toynton passed assessment and is now a registered BCU Canoe Instructor. He took the assessment last Sunday, at the National Scout Boating Centre on the Thames at Marlow. Apparently Paul was shivering so much at the end of the session that the examiner decided they didn't need anyone to simulate hypothermia in order to test him - if he survived, he obviously knew what to do! Our congratulations to Paul.

That Time Again

Membership subscriptions are now overdue, unless you are one of the few people who has already paid up. Note that following the AGM in March, the club's constitution has been changed to make membership run for a full 12-month period from the date of joining - this obviously only applies to

new members. Also, for a trial period of one year, the club is offering full-time students and unemployed people a reduced subscription of £12-50. The normal subscription levels are:

Full Member	£20-00
Junior member	£12-50
Family Membership	£30-00

A Junior Member is any person between 12 and 18 years old on April 1st. Family membership covers husband, wife and children under 12. To renew your membership, please send a cheque for the appropriate amount (made payable to Ringwood Canoe Club) to Alan Taylor, 167 Harewood Avenue, Queen's Park, Bournemouth BH7 7BJ.

BCU Southern Region inland tours

BCU Southern Region is organising a series of one-day tours during 1991 to celebrate the opening of the Kennet and Avon Canal. The distances are fairly short because of the number of locks involved, and for those who wish, there are plans to visit local tourist attractions such as Crofton pumping station after paddling. The following dates are probably fairly firm, but it would be best to contact Ted Moulding on 0908-676343 before setting out.

Sunday 7th April Devizes to Honey Street	9 miles
Sunday 5th May Honey Street to Crofton	11 miles
Sunday 2nd June Crofton to Dun Mill	8 miles
Sunday 7th July Dun Mill to Newbury	8 miles
Sunday 1st September Newbury to Tyle Mill	9 miles
Sunday 6th October Tyle Mill to Caversham	9 miles

Dates for your Diary

Friday 19th April

Pool session at Ringwood Recreation Centre. 22.00 to 23.00. No, it's not a mistake!

Sunday 21st April

The annual River Avon trip. We have obtained permission from Lord Radnor for a repeat of last year's highly successful paddle from Longford Castle to Downton. Covers some four miles, with three weirs to play on and lots of wildlife. This time, people should bring a packed lunch. Meet at the same place as last year, just north of Alderbury (OS map reference 176 273). Contact Barry if you plan to go on this trip, because we need to notify the estate of the number of people paddling.

Saturday 4th May

Isle of Wight trip - Keyhaven to Yarmouth (and back). Meet Keyhaven village 10.00. Bring a packed lunch; if time permits, we might explore the River Yar. Steve for details.

Friday 17th May

Pool session at Ringwood Recreation Centre. 22.00 to 23.00.

Sunday 19th May

North Avon Canoe Club is organising a marathon between Bath (Newbridge) and Keynsham. A variety of distances can be paddled, ranging from two miles to 12 miles. Contact Steve for details.

Friday 31st May

Pool session at Ringwood Recreation Centre. 22.00 to 23.00.

Sunday 9th June

Family day at Studland. Take your family for a trip on the Sandbanks Ferry before the tourists arrive. Canoe round Old Harry while there's still a bit left. See Swanage from the sea. And more. Contact Warner for details.

Tuesday 18th June

Hengistbury Head race. The club has decided to make this an annual event, in memory of Julian Butler, and there will be a trophy in his name awarded to the fastest overall competitor. The race will probably be split into two different-length routes to cater for 'novices' and 'professionals'. Apart from the trophy, there will also be prizes for each category, will be awarded at the barbecue. Contact Steve for details.

Saturday 22nd June

Ringwood Canoe Club barbecue. As last year, this will be held at Jackie and Barry's house in Alderholt. Bring a bottle and a steak or veggieburger. Note that this event is weather-dependent and may have to be cancelled at the last minute if it's raining. Contact Barry for details.

28th to 30th June

Devon camping trip. A repeat of last year's excellent weekend touring/camping trip. Starting at Totnes on the Friday evening, and paddling to Bantham by Sunday, weather permitting. A total distance of some 40 miles. Contact Barry for details.

Tuesday 9th July

A non-Mudeford Tuesday evening, for a change. Paddle round Poole Harbour. Meet Baiter car park, Poole at 19.00. Contact Steve for details.

6th to 8th September

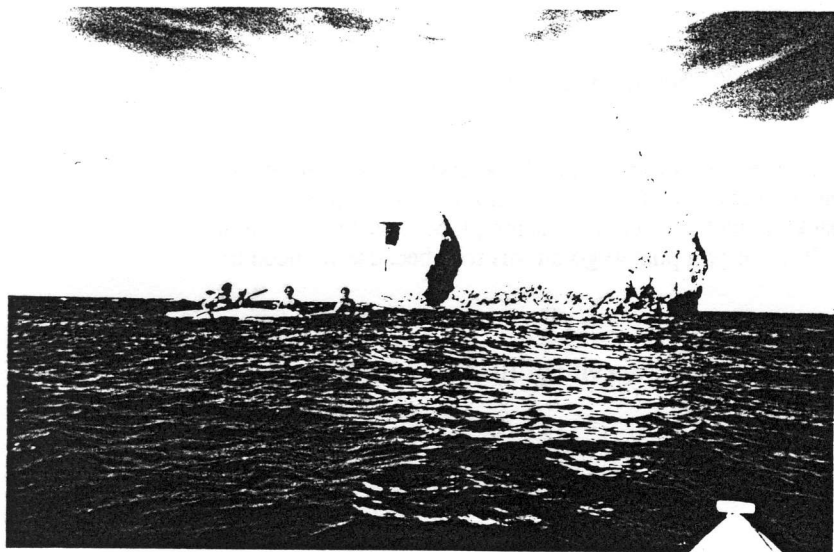
A repeat of last year's surfin'/ramblin'/eatin'/drinkin' weekend at Ilfracombe. Very friendly accommodation (includes Tom & Jerry at breakfast) and some of North Devon's best surfing beaches. Contact Paul for details.

6th, 7th and 8th December - another trip to Powys, South Wales. Stay in superb accommodation near the top of Table Mountain. Choice of rivers to paddle. Steve is now in the process of booking this, so let him know if you want to go.

Tuesday evenings at Mudeford

Unless a specific alternative event has been organised, the club meets every Tuesday evening at Mudeford Quay throughout the summer. People should try to turn up as close to 18.30 as possible. The club will concentrate on aspects of safety and training at these sessions.

Pictures from an exhibition



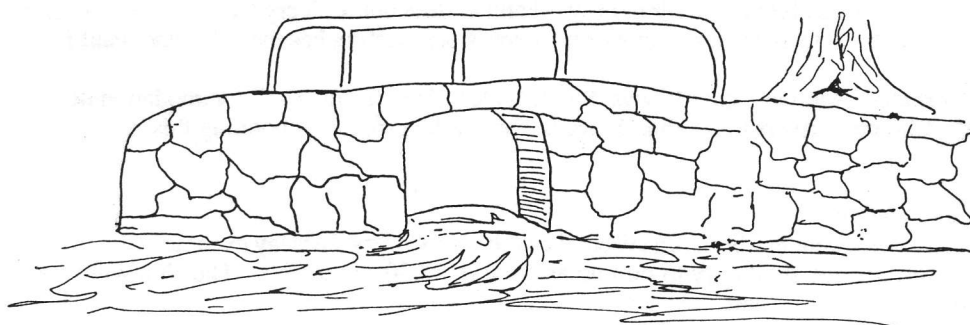
The Needles



Warner looking thoughtful



Nick on the Monnow



The 'Hole in The Wall' by Albert

South Wales weekend

The first weekend in December found Alison, Dave, Nick, Steve, Albert and Barry deep in South Wales. After meeting up on the Friday evening at the motorway service area on the approach to the Severn Bridge (for future reference: this might be a good place to get petrol, but it is most definitely *not* a good place to get food) we drove on into the gathering dusk until we reached Crickhowell in Powys. At this point, Alison was overwhelmed by a desire for edible fish and chips - rather than the rubbish being dished out at the service station - so she and Dave arranged to rejoin the group later.

The rest of us drove the remaining couple of miles to where

we were staying for the weekend: the Perth-y-Pia activity centre near Llanbedr. This is situated some 400 feet below the top of Table Mountain, and to get there you have to negotiate an incredibly steep track that is about 0.25 mile long. The centre consists of two very attractive buildings, and when we arrived they were in darkness. There was no sign of the people who run it, and no sign of our fellow canoeists for the weekend: Colin and Liz Butler, Ian and Nicky, and Bob. Nothing daunted, upon finding one of the buildings unlocked, we unpacked all our kit and selected our beds for the night.

In search of a pub, we then drove down to Llanbedr village, which is about a mile from the centre. On the way, we passed Alison and Dave, so we were able to tell them where their beds were. The Red Lion turned out to be an excellent pub, with good food and Abbot ale. Just as we started to get into the swing of things, everyone else turned up and told us we had put our stuff in the wrong building back at the centre! Apparently the group of walkers from London which had booked the other half of the centre was now wondering where on earth they were supposed to sleep. To cut a long story short, the building we ended up in was quite simply the most luxurious and well-equipped place we have ever encountered on our canoeing trips. Drying rooms, ensuite loos, elegantly appointed dining room - you name it, we had it! The menu for evening meals has to be seen to be believed.

Saturday dawned cold but fine, and we canoed approximately nine to ten miles on the river Monnow. There was a reasonable amount of white water, but the rapids were extremely shallow in places, which meant people soon tired of 'hand-walking' their canoes. A couple of tricky spots presented themselves, including one where a rapid dropped you straight into some tree roots before the river turned sharp left. Negotiating this obstacle involved a quick break out and then an equally quick break in, to get round the roots before they got round you. Only a couple of us managed to shoot straight through. By the end of the day, most of us were pretty knackered, but we walked into Llanbedr for a few pints before bed.

Sunday was very different. The weather was again fine, but not as cold as Saturday, and we canoed some 13 miles (at least, I think it was that far) on the River Usk. This provided

a marked contrast to the Monnow, with a lot more water and spectacularly beautiful scenery. We started by shooting a large waterfall, and in the course of the day, shot a further four good-sized falls, where our seal-launching exercises at Mudeford proved their worth. It was at one of these that we encountered a canoeist from another party who had injured his shoulder and was about to be taken for medical attention at an army base about a mile away. It is obviously an essential safety requirement to have good maps of the area in which you are canoeing.

The next waterfall provided yet another example of safety procedures. Without getting out to take a look at it first, Ian paddled into a fast-moving part of the fall. Unfortunately, the fissure had a large rock in it and turned through quite an acute angle, and Ian got well and truly stuck at 45 degrees to the face of the fall. After about 15 minutes, Colin managed to free him by attaching a rescue line to the rear of the canoe and pulling it back upstream before casting off. Despite the time he'd spent trapped in the fall, Ian was perfectly dry - though he admitted to being "bloody cold"!

After lunch, the waterfalls gave way to some exciting rapids, many of them quite long. These provided excellent practise for learning how to pick the best route through,

and by the end of the day Ian reckoned everyone was very good at this (though to be honest you couldn't see much by then, because the daylight was fading fast). When we finally reached our destination, Colin discovered he had left the keys to his car on the river bank where we had launched. While some of the party leapt around in a field to keep warm - their clothes were safely locked in the car - Barry, Colin and Ian drove back to our starting point and were extremely lucky to spot the keys in the gathering gloom.

The general opinion was that this was one of the most successful trips that the club has organised. We are currently in the process of booking Perth-y-Pia for this year.

Nick Leatherdale

Equipment register

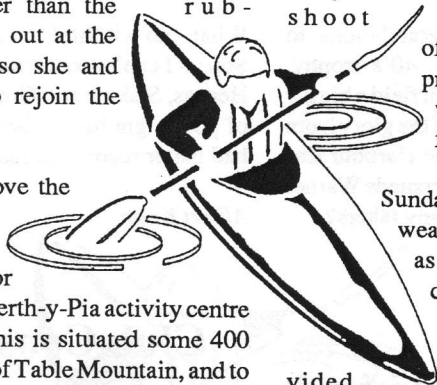
Just a reminder - would all members who have any club equipment please advise Warner as soon as possible, in order that he can build up an accurate register of club equipment? Apart from anything else, it makes it much easier to organise canoes for people if we know who has what.

Pool Closure Programme

The swimming pool at Ringwood Recreation Centre will be closed for the whole of June and July for refurbishment.

Suggestions corner

Actually, this is an attempt to quickly fill a blank space on the page, before we rush to print. However, if anyone has anything they would like to contribute to future issues of Canews, please would they let Nick know? We are prepared to consider almost anything!



River Axe Canoe Race

The 10th anniversary of this event was due to be held on the 10th February 1991, but due to large amounts of snow and a river covered in ice, it was postponed to 10th March. Three members represented the club, Dave Harris and Steve Sambell just scraping into the *Slalom Under-40* class and Warner Wallace, our super-fit 'veteran' in the *Slalom Over-40* class.

The weather encountered on the journey to Whitford did not bode well; visibility was down to a few yards on the hills between Winterbourne Abbas and Bridport. However, the clouds lifted later in the morning and there were sunny spells later in the day. In fact, the conditions were absolutely perfect and the organisers were predicting some fast times.

On arrival, we met up with our old friends Colin and Liz Butler who had decided to enter the *K2 Touring Doubles* class but they were not too hopeful as they had borrowed an extremely heavy boat, and Colin had strained his back again!

The turn-out was a bit smaller than last year and the Under- and Over-40 classes started together. As before, the 'off' was pretty chaotic but this time Steve made sure he did not get away too rapidly. Within the first mile, Warner and two or three others had opened a large gap from the rest of the pack and were sprinting away.

It was obvious that the race was going to be a lot faster, not only because of the better conditions, but because some of the obstacles encountered last year were not present; indeed, the local land-owner had removed the tree at the infamous 'Capsize Corner', much to everyone's relief. The final stretch down the Axe estuary was just as tough though, a stiffening breeze meant that steerage was a bit difficult, but with heads down and a steady rhythm we all made it.

Warner put in an amazingly fast time and our congratulations go to him because he literally romped away with the veterans trophy. As we gathered for tea and hot dogs at the yacht club, Warner recounted his race. He was apparently streamlining the 2nd placed Under-40 canoe most of the way and taking it quite easy. The amusing part about

it was that this chap was putting in absolutely everything in his attempt to stay ahead of Warner and, on reaching the finish line, he was totally gutted as he looked over his shoulder to see he had been setting the pace for a 'wrinkly' (sorry Warner, I couldn't resist that one) !!

Steve managed to achieve his objective by coming in 8th in a time of 45 minutes and 15 seconds; rather more respectable than last year's effort, but still not good enough, he says. As for Dave, well he reckoned he was just along for the ride!

Once again, warmest congratulations to Warner on taking the Over-40's trophy. Perhaps next year the club can field a bigger team and start lifting some of the glory from the likes of Exeter and Poole Harbour Canoe Clubs - we are trying to persuade Warner to give us some coaching - any takers?

Steve Sambell

The Frome Revisited

The mad fools who were willing to risk possibly their first canoeing of 1991 on January 12th were well-rewarded with a brilliant day. Like last year, the weather, after a cold start, turned out fine and warm. Unlike last year, the river level was well up, which meant that we had to miss out the 'hole in the wall', but it gave us loads of fun on the other weirs and a chance to practise our white water techniques in anticipation of our forthcoming river Dart trip. I must make it clear to those who have not been on the Frome that you can make it as easy or as hard as you like. The trip mainly consists of peaceful stretches of river through pleasant countryside and you can, if you wish, walk round the weirs - though they were perfectly safe to shoot. The only danger was to the bottom of our boats, especially the fibreglass ones, because the typical shape of the weirs created shallow shelves. Actually, this is not quite true, because Paul managed to hurt his eye on a low-hanging twig, and Liz tried to knock Colin's head off.

A lot of our time was spent playing in the safe stoppers, but this was nothing compared with the time spent at the sluice. The sluice in this case is a concrete funnel which creates a very fast flow terminating with a wall of water. Sadly by the time we reached it, the amount of water coming down the

river had dropped, but I can tell you it was still pretty amazing. In fact it was such fun that most of the group repeated the experience, which entailed seal-launching of the bank.

The best place for practising our white water techniques such as break-ins, forward and reverse ferry glides and fast break-outs, was below the hole in the wall, because it created a fast flow sided by two eddies. I would like to end by thanking Colin, Peter, Barry and Paul for their advice on improving my technique.

What - no wildlife!

Sorry - I can't resist telling you that we saw Herons, Siskins and Grey Wagtails. Some of you might have missed these, so I felt I had better record the fact for posterity!

Albert Knott

Club Constitution

Following the AGM in March, the club's constitution was amended in line with the proposals voted on at that meeting. A copy of the revised constitution is included with this issue of Canews.