

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday's

**10.00am every Sunday: The Haven, Mudeford.** Regular Sunday mornings unless a specific even has been organised somewhere else

Tuesday's

**18.30pm every Tuesday evening: The Haven, Mudeford.** Regular Tuesday evenings, throughout the summer (until the clocks go back) unless a specific event has been organised somewhere else

Wednesday 16th August

**Treasure Hunt:** A walking treasure hunt around the village of Woodgreen, near Fordingbridge. Start at the Horse & Groom (SU 171176) any time between 1830 & 1930 hrs, but please don't park in the pub car park. Bring a pen and half a brain.

29th Aug- 3rd Sept

**Slalom : World Championships 1995:** Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham : Someone in the club is bound to be going (to watch!!)

Tuesday 5th September

**Committee Meeting :** The Haven, Mudeford (following the evenings paddle). Everyone welcome.

Weekend 9 10th September

**Devon Canoe/Camp Weekend:** Probably combining estuary opportunities for beginners and coastal paddles for the more experienced. Venue undecided. Please contact Barry for details

Saturday 16th September

**Celebration Eats & Drinks.** Bev and Barry invite the club and all friends to 36 Whitsbury Road to celebrate the formalising of our partnership. (Yes, we are getting married!). Please come along any time between midday and midnight.

Weekend 13 15th October

**River Dart:** A budget weekend of white water for all standards. The camping barn at Holne is booked, and sleeps 13 people at £7 each. A new woodburning stove has been installed! Let Barry know if you want to reserve a place. We can use the less luxurious barn next door for any overflow in numbers. We shall introduce novices to white water on the lower stretches, while others may want to paddle the whiter bits. Total cost of the weekend will be £10 plus beer & petrol.

Saturday 28th October

**Hallowe'en Party :** Following the success of last years 'burn-up', Karl Hardy is hoping to repeat the BBQ & Bonfire this year (watch this space)

Weekend 10 12th November?

**Perth-Y-Pia:** Paddling the Usk for more white water - a well attended annual event in (for RCC) luxury accommodation. This might be shifted to the following weekend subject to a possible clash with the BCU's *Usk Tour*. This trip requires early booking - so let Steve know if you want to come

Sunday 19th November

**Exc Descent:** Anyone with the stamina to keep Steve company, please contact him



# CANEWS

## *Summer 1995*

## An Uneventful Trip Down A Small Welsh River With A Funny Name

*GG has suggested that this trip report, recently filed by a rugby club friend, might prove worthy entertainment for RCC readers.*

"Most of the group started in the village of Pentre'r Felin, on the river Cilieni. I think the translation is "the tiny river full of trees". However, with the recent rain it was no longer small, but well over its banks. The trees must have made this the most dangerous river I have ever attempted to paddle. It was not a case of missing the trees, but of choosing the best one to go through. This was not my idea of fun!

The first incident occurred about half a mile from the start. Bob had already rolled several times after getting stuck in trees (and so had most of the rest of the party) when he rolled again and, on the way up, hit a tree that someone had carelessly placed in the middle of the river. Unfortunately he was left pinned desperately trying to breathe. Not a pleasant place to be. Quick thinking and bravery by Hector soon got him out, somewhat shaken but unharmed.

It took nearly 1 hr to get the boat free, chase and retrieve it from a fast tree infested river. Bob decided to walk the rest of the way

All went well for a further 1/4 mile - it was now just about possible to miss the trees with a lot of care and effort. However, a very minor mistake by Hector saw him stuck in a tree. He was forced to bale out and tried to hold himself, the boat and paddle on the tree but failed. Fortunately he managed to get to the bank, leaving his boat and paddles to the mercy of the river.

At this time I was completely on my own and had a boat and paddle to catch. I tried to stop the boat first - but soon realised it was impossible, the river was too fast. By this time I had lost sight of the paddles, but they popped up in a small stopper further down and I retrieved them.

At this time another paddler joined me in the boat chase. We both had to take a lot of care because of the trees and this slowed us considerably. Hector's boat stopped briefly on an island before being washed off. This enabled us to catch it up, and almost get it when we had to abandon the effort to avoid another tree. This was the last chance we had. While we were avoiding the tree it gained about 100m lead on us and went through another set of trees. One of these caught my companion and forced him over - he rolled up. We just saw Hector's boat disappear over the grade 4 fall.

We decided not to follow it because the risk was too high - hoping it would get stuck somewhere and we would find it on the Usk.

We inspected the falls and shot them using the chicken shoot (over the grass at the side). The rest of the river was fairly big and included one huge stopper which I saw too late. I just made it but another paddler didn't - and spent a while doing multiple loops until he was washed out.

The lost boat was reported to the police (to avoid a body search). It was spotted passing through Talybont, many miles downstream. At the time of writing there was no further news of its progress"

*Andrew Green*

(Just like any good day at Mudeford!)

## An Amble Up The Hamble 11 June 95

The annual jaunt up the Hamble to the 'Pub up the Creek' was well attended - there were (probably) between 12 and 15 of us (I didn't count), including 2 Canadians. Even Jake was afloat (at 10-weeks old!!), tucked in his Moses basket in Barry & Bev's Canadian.

Paddlers congregated at Moody's Boat Yard at Bursledon and all were on the water before 7.30pm. The tide was well out, but I was reliably informed (by someone that I had considered an impeccable source) that it was romping in, and was due to turn at closing time - perfect!

We wound our way through the yachts and cruisers, under the bridges and through the Country Park. The rain had held off, clouds were clearing and it was very warm but I didn't feel any romping tide up my stern!

It's about 3 miles (as the river flows) to the *Horse & Jockey* at Curbridge, our destination. Some (if not most) ill-advised paddlers had not eaten before hand, saving themselves for the pub - hunger was knowing.

Following blindly the main flotilla of craft ahead, for some reason unknown to me we passed by the creek up to the pub and carried on towards Botley - only to grind to a halt a little further on when we ran out of water. We then all turned around, paddled back and began to negotiate the creek in what (to me) appeared to be diminishing water levels. Muddy banks seemed to be creeping ever closer to the gunwales - was my impeccable source wrong?

It was only a few hundred yards to the pub (you could almost smell the culinary delights in store) but there was only 1cm of water - which slowed progress a little! Paddles were

now redundant, and knuckles were used to propel the kayaks (an inch at a time). We hauled, scraped and shuffled our way the last few yards through the silt to finally arrive at the pub at 9.05 - "last food orders 9pm"

The atmosphere was tense, you could smell more undercurrents in the gaggle of hungry canoeists now than we had seen all evening on the river - trouble was brewing. The bar staff were uneasy. Jaqui planted both elbows firmly on the bar and prepared for a show-down. However, standing in a bar in wet shorts muddy legs and squelching feet tended to steal some of our thunder and (being polite RCC members) we retired gracefully to the garden, with ale and boxes and boxes of crisps.

The bar staff, however (obviously relieved by escaping the civil unrest) returned the favour by laying on sausage and chips for all - so everyone was happy.

The tide began to come in while we were eating, and we left the pub in several groups between 10 and 10.30pm. Personally, its the return trip that I enjoy most, under a full moon reflecting off the 'mill-pond' water - but we couldn't dawdle - the baby-sitter was having a hard time.

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### My First Canoe Trip

First things first - I don't mind where I go as long as I get fed!

We arrived at the car park at 7 o'clock, it certainly looked like rain. Everyone else was putting on wet suits and cags. All I had was my Moses basket. Very apt. Dad put me in this huge buoyancy aid, well it might fit me in about three years.

Twenty three of us set out for the Horse & Jockey up the river Hamble. We went past a lot of flash looking yachts at first (it's not fair, why do my parents have to be canoeists?) And then under a noisy main road. Peace and quiet at last....yawn...all this rocking makes me tired.

At the top of the Hamble the mud was thick and the tide wasn't in enough to get us to the pub. Some tried mud wrestling to get there - what these grown-ups will do for a pint! Well it's lucky my milk was on tap because at first the landlord told everyone that food was off. We had to send Jacqui in to plead for 20 sausage & chips.

The trip back was most enjoyable, the moon was almost full so there was plenty of light. I can't tell you much about the rest of the trip though as I slept all the way home.

*Jake Deakin. 10 weeks.*

### Canoeing Courses.

Three courses have been booked at Ringwood Recreation Centre for the coming winter season, under the usual arrangement of 3 hours of pool time for the club in return for tuition on a six hour course. Please publicise the courses among your friends to ensure that they are fully booked and we can retain our delicate working relationship with RRC.

- 1: Beginners course 31-10-95 to 5-12-95.
- 2: Beginners course 9-01-96 to 13-02-96.
- 3: Rolling course 20-02-96 to 26-03-96.

These will all take place on Tuesday evenings at 2200 hrs.

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### Club Pool Sessions.

The following 9 sessions have been booked, all on Saturday evenings at 1830 hrs.

- 7th October,
- 4th October
- 25th November.
- 6th November
- 20th January,
- 3rd January
- 17th February.
- 2nd March
- 16th March.

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### Buying Gear.

The outdoor equipment shop Blacks now offer 10% discount to a member of any sports club on purchases of over £5. It is worth asking for discounts from all retailers, but be sure to take your membership list to prove that you are a fully paid up member (are you?).

### THE BCU

Newcomers to the sport may not be familiar with the BCU (*British Canoe Union*) and its activities. Our club is affiliated to it, principally for the benefit of keeping in touch with developments in the sport, and for the third party insurance. All paid up members of the club are covered by this for claims of up to £2,000,000. (Unfortunately boat insurance is not included.)

Many club members are also individual members, of which there are currently 22,600. At a cost of £15, basic membership provides:-

- Yearbook with a comprehensive list of other clubs, courses, tours, competitions, and river access data
- bi-monthly Canoe-Focus magazines
- Free use of the River Information Service, including advice on access
- Reduced price BCU supplies and publications and discounts at many trade outlets.
- British Waterways Board licence valid on over 2,000 miles of inland rivers and canals

Those keen enough to pay £25-50 are also eligible enter the coaching scheme and work their way up the instructors' ladder.

The BCU uses the funds to support competitions and expeditions, and to finance a staff of 16 people at Nottingham who represent the interests of the sport at a National and International level, and provide an information service to paddlers.

Some paddlers are of the opinion that the interests of the average canoeist are not well served by the BCU, but much of the hard work at a local level which goes into river

access negotiations and events is done on behalf of the BCU by volunteers. They are the stalwarts of the organisation, and together they make it work.

If you would like to know more ask one of the 'Old Timers' of the club, most of whom are members, or write to: *British Canoe Union, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS.*

### Canoeist magazine.

If your only reason for joining the BCU would be to receive their magazine, you might consider a subscription to *Canoeist* would be better value. This is an independent magazine which, like *Canoe Focus*, covers the complete range of canoeing activities but, being monthly, it tends to be more up to date with events. The editor is quick to criticise the shortcomings of the BCU and the letters pages can be quite entertaining!

The annual subscription is £23-40 by mail order from: *4 Simodun Row, Appleford, Oxon OX14 4PE.*

*Barry*

## BCU Tests Of Personal Performance

The BCU administers a range of tests by which a canoeists level of skill can be measured. Their 'Star Tests' are an assessment of paddling ability and knowledge of the sport, while the 'Proficiency' tests are intended to assess ability to cope with trips and expeditions. One does not need to be a BCU member to take the tests.

- **1 Star Test:** An elementary test aimed at encouraging youngsters who have completed an introductory course.
- **2 Star Test:** A test for improving novices who have grasped the principles of the basic strokes. All those who have been on our pool courses and brushed up with a few sessions on the water should be at this standard.
- **3 Star Test:** For those who have mastered the basic strokes and rescues, and can roll in controlled conditions. A reasonable knowledge of various aspects of the sport, such as types of equipment, and safety afloat, is required.
- **4 Star Test:** An advanced test, specific to white water or surf, to be taken in moderate conditions. For those comfortable in the appropriate conditions, and who can roll reliably in them.
- **5 Star Test:** The most advanced test for those with total competence in rough conditions on the appropriate water.

1,2 & 3 Star Tests can be taken in kayaks and canoes. 4 & 5 Star Tests apply to closed cockpit kayaks only.

- **Proficiency Test:** For those who are competent to join a group on a self sufficient day trip in moderate conditions. The paddling ability equates to 3 Star, and the test requires a knowledge of the appropriate type of water, equipment and its dry stowage, safety, the environment, and other aspects of the sport.
- **Advanced Proficiency:** For those who are highly skilled and fully competent to lead a group in difficult conditions.

The proficiency tests are specific to canoes, and to both inland and sea kayaks. The real all rounders are the ones who have achieved Advanced Proficiency in all three!

The club's instructors are only sufficiently qualified to assess 1 & 2 Star, but if anyone would like to be assessed for the higher grades we can arrange for a more senior instructor to visit, or the test can be taken at any of the many activity centres which hold regular courses and assessments.

There are, also, two local centres that provide BCU training.

*Woodmill: Swaythling : Tel:01703 556641*

This centre offers 1-3\* training and testing weekend and evening courses from April to October, together with Inland Kayak proficiency and instructor training courses

*Calshot: Calshot Spit: Tel: 01703 892077*

Calshot similarly offers 1-3\* training and testing weekend courses from April to October, together with Sea Kayak proficiency and instructor training courses

*Barry*



*Having re-surfaced since the Spring issue, Ricc dreams of still greater achievements : watch this space !!*

### BCU Award Scheme : Kavak

#### Personal Performance Tests

Level	Sea	River
1* Beginner		Placid :No weirs
2* Intermediate	Holiday Beaches	Simple rivers (Grade I/II)
3* /Proficiency	Upto 3' surf	Whitewater (Grade II)
4* Experienced	Open water / surf	Whitewater (Grade III+)
5* /Adv proficiency		

#### Other Tests

Canoe Safety	Canoe rescue techniques : for 2*
3* Proficiency	3* level + minimum number of trips logged

#### Teaching Awards

Level	Test Entry Level
Supervisor	2*
Instructor	3*/Canoe Safety + 20 hrs teaching logged
Senior Instructor	3* & Proficiency: separately for inland, sea & surf
Coach	4/5*

## **TOP TIPS & THE POOLE BBQ Trip:** **May '95**

Ruth and I were late. Various chums stood around in the car park but didn't seem too bothered. We hauled the boats through onto the sands on the north side of sandbanks. I had this feeling, as one does, that someone knew what was happening, and that it was an organised event. I'd read about it in the *Canews* magazine.

**Top tip: always check tides and charts yourself in case no-one else has any idea either.**

No-one else had any idea either. We all swilled slowly around for a while, until Paul admirably took on the reins of leadership with a characteristically exclaimed "*what the hell is going on?*"

Fortunately the tide was relatively slack and we were able to negotiate the Poole Harbour entrance without difficulty, avoiding the ferry like a group of ducklings.

**Top tip: always make a note of the number of people in the group.**

"*Where's Karl?*", asked Ros after a while. No-where to be seen. Yes, he had been with us, I remember. Had he been playing the surf of the chain ferry? Had he been buzzsawed by one of those irritating jet-skis that were trying so hard to destroy the serenity of the evening paddle? A tiny figure was now discernible hundreds of yards back. He'd returned to get bait for his fishing line. Paul

set off back to discipline him, which must have been a verbal rather than physical act, since I saw no raised paddles, and medical advice was not subsequently sought.

We all paddled onwards gracefully. We now knew that we were eleven in number. The pinkness of the evening sky was picked up by rosewater bow waves (bit excessive, Ed). Time was getting on.

**Top tip: When canoing on a Ringwood Canoe Club BBQ paddle - always have a reasonably large meal before you set off.**

Canocists eyes flicked hungrily around the horizon looking for a hospitable island. Idle chatter and pleasantries had ceased. We were focused, like a crack SBS unit. Where would we beach?

It was now about 8.30pm. **Top tip: Barbecue fires take at least an hour to be ready to cook on.**

Our first beach seemed pleasant enough. Mr. and Mrs. Midge, and their rather large family, thought so too and came to join us after a few minutes. We escaped in small groups, lurching hastily back into the water like a group of disturbed seals. We moved rapidly onwards to another island.

I could have sworn that we were now on the west end of Brownsea island. But as beaching and barbecuing there are not permitted, I'm sure I must have been completely wrong about this.

Karl, during this time managed skilfully to land a nine-inch spiny fish with his line. As this was not directly witnessed, we questioned whether he'd bought the fish at Safeway's, and at first hidden it in his kayak. But those who tasted the fish later felt sure it must have come directly from the stagnant waters of the harbour, and that Safeway's would certainly never sell such a thing.

Albert took his clothes off, but was reminded that this was Larry's role in the club, and so put them on again.

Rival BBQ's were now being lit. Smokiness was encouraged in view of the persisting midge problem. Graham Bland stated that an evil-smelling pipe really has no effect on midges, but he uses the theory to excuse his addiction. In fact, he stoked his briar up so much that someone tried to cook a beefburger on it. **Top tip: When the invite says "*bring some food and a torch*", you really need to bring a lot more besides - e.g. cooking griddle, plate, fork, matches/lighter, mug, a container of fresh water, and a comprehensive first-aid kit!**

It is amazing how helpless doctors can be when outside their normal environment and without an array of drugs to choose from. As Graham Deacon's face and limbs visibly swelled from reactions to midge bites, all the two doctors could say was "*Yeeurr - that looks horrible*"

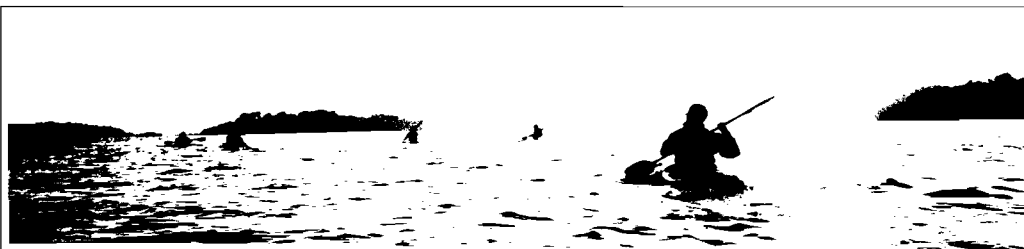
Paul was about to create a wonderful party atmosphere with freshly brewed mulled wine, but managed to invert the pot and spill every last drop of the stuff. He didn't need too much consoling, as he then admitted that



the wine used had been "*absolutely crap anyway*"

Ruth, Richard and Graham Deacon made a superb hearth from the plentiful stones, bricks and tiles that made up the little beach. After a while our fire started to crackle nicely. A while longer and it was popping. A while longer and it looked as though we had received sponsorship from Brocks Ltd, with showers of fizzing and exploding missiles regularly emanating from what was supposed to be our cooker. Subsequent forensic examination revealed the cause. **Top tip: don't make a fire amongst old ceramic tiles.**

I had my first bite of sausage at about 10pm. It smelled like sausage but was textured like



sandpaper and broken china, which was not surprising as that was pretty well the case.

The fires were quelled, and we set off into the night.

A shadowy creature flew zig-zag past us. **Top tip: When identifying wildlife in the dark, hesitate and question before you commit yourself.** "look, it's a bat" I exclaimed knowledgeably. Paul correctly identified "it" as a heron.

As we paddled home in the darkness, a shoal of large jumping fish attacked us. I think it was probably a vigilante group, wishing to exact retribution on Karl for taking out one of their mates. They were bouncing everywhere, and Pete Morcote had two land on his spraydeck.

The water phosphoresced beautifully with each paddle stroke. The harbour entrance was more challenging this time. It was difficult to assess the speed of the current in the dark. The sandbanks ferry spotted us in their searchlight, and hesitated, beacon flashing, until we moved decisively behind it as buddied-up group.

And soon then, it was all over and we were getting out of our boats, and setting off home. Tired but happy, and soon to be ready for more adventures.

I think there were still eleven of us at the end.

*Richard Marwood*

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### Isle Of White 21st May

We set off on Sunday morning feeling extremely lucky that the weather was fine. Heading up along Hurst Spit towards the Castle. We then ferry glided across the

channel to where we eventually stopped at Colwell Bay - this is where I drank the one tin of beer I had brought with me, and later to find myself dehydrated and feeling rather foolish when asking Larry and Jacqui for something liquid to drink. Off on a bit of a tangent here, so back to the Isle of White and the beautiful clear waters around it.

We paddled to the Needles where we crossed through the second opening, conflicting currents here so quite rough. We pitched up in a bay just the other side of them to eat our lunch - this was a wonderfully tranquil spot that, because of the sheer cliffs surrounding it, was inaccessible by land.

After lunch we made our way around the West side of the Isle, investigating some interesting caves and marvelling at the birds that live on the cliffs. In all my imaginings I couldn't think of a more extreme position to dwell.

Those awesome cliffs with millions of years of erosion, the mind can only feebly comprehend the lapse of time. "oh dear here I go again". Paul, a budding ornithologist, collected a gull egg from a rocky outlet, which Karl unfortunately later sat upon.

It was hard work paddling back, at least for me it was, not having a sea kayak. We stopped for a short break at the estuary of the Beaulieu River (this is where I was dehydrated) then we paddled up to where we had parked the cars. An Ice Cream van was waiting for us, so some of us indulged, me included.

All in all it was a most exhilarating day which I believe we all thoroughly enjoyed.

*Stephen Hunt*

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### Winchester Slalom : Saturday 16th July

The day was definitely a success and is a must for next year, (if we are invited!)

It is in a very pleasant setting at the North Walls Recreation Ground in Winchester - and proved enjoyable for both spectators and competitors. By the end of the day I think most of the spectators secretly wanted to have a go anyway!

We entered two teams of four :-

- Representing *New Forest West*: Peter Ambrose, Steve Frampton, Karl Wiggins & Graham Bland
- Representing *New Forest South*: Karl Hardy, Graham Deacon, Graham Gibbins and Julian ?

The event was a *Paddles Up* competition, with a 150 yard sprint followed by twelve slalom gates, interspersed with challenging obstacles such as - getting balls into baskets and 'limboing' under poles - very tricky!

We supported well from the bank, rushing up and down with our pom poms, though only encouraging when allowed (Peter didn't like us shouting at him!)

I think the onlookers thought that you had to be called 'Graham' in order to belong to Ringwood Canoe Club!

The opposing teams were competitive but friendly and put on a good show, (I mean their canoeing skills, not the streaker at the end)

(Peter has a rundown of the results of the competition but the RCC managed to scrape into a medal position (3rd) - which meant hanging around for the presentation at the end!)

All our lads did really well and we were very proud of them.

*Mandy*



I am hoping to have Canews despatched on a fairly regular basis (eg. every three months) - and as promised, this hits the streets in the first week of August. The copy date for the next issue will be 1st November 1995

Unfortunately my 'day job' has taken over recently and, consequently, this issue has been somewhat rushed.

Two recent RCC events remain 'uncovered':-

- The Lulworth Cove Trip (18th June 1995)
- The Club BBQ at Colin and Karens (Saturday 24th June)

From all accounts these were both a success - so much so that no one felt qualified to jot a few notes!

Thanks to all those that contributed accounts for this issue. **All contributions for the next issue will be gratefully received**

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