

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Trip Grading

<i>Tuesdays</i>	18.30pm every Tuesday evening: The Haven, Mudeford. Regular Tuesday evenings throughout the summer unless an event has been organised elsewhere	
<i>Sundays</i>	10.00am every Sunday: The Haven, Mudeford. Regular Sunday mornings unless a specific event has been organised somewhere else	
<i>Sat. 10 May</i>	AGM : Annual General Meeting 7.30pm. The White Heart, Ringwood. Tracey Allen has volunteered to talk about her exploration of rivers in Europe	0
<i>Sunday 11th May</i>	Swanage Overfalls : meet at the lifeboat station at Peveril Point at 10.00. Bring a packed lunch. Suitable for all regular paddlers. Contact Paul Toynton	3
<i>Weekend 24 25 May</i>	Ifracombe Surfing Weekend : A repeat of last years social gathering - but hopefully, with some waves. Contact Nick Leatherdale ASAP to secure space	23
<i>Sunday 8th June</i>	Lulworth Cove : A paddle from Lulworth Cove to Durdle Door and back. A day for the family (non-paddlers can meet for a pic-nic at Durdle Door). Meet at Lulworth Cove carpark at 09.30. Contact Nick Leatherdale	2
<i>Tuesday 10th June</i>	Hengistbury Head Race the 7th Julian Butler Memorial race around Hengistbury Head: can anyone snatch the title from Karl? Steve Sambell to calculate the Handicaps. Committee Meeting following the race	1
<i>Weekend 22 23 June</i>	Stonchenge '96 . Southern Region Canoe Exhibition held at Pewsey Sports Centre. A good local alternative to the National Canoe Exhibition	0
<i>Saturday 21st June</i>	Club BBQ . This year Paul & Mary Toynton are hoping to host the annual gathering. A social event for all the family. RCC will lay on some Ale, wine and soft drinks. Bring food to BBQ and any other Grog/food welcome.	0
<i>Weekend 5 6th July</i>	Devon Coast Canoe/Camp Weekend not to be confused with the Dart Estuary weekend (that will probably be in September) this will be a coastal paddle for the more experienced, some undecided. Please contact Paul Toynton	2
<i>Tuesday 15th July</i>	River Hamble evening paddle with a pint and sausage + chips at the <i>Horse & Jockey</i> . Meet at slipway behind Meach's Boatyard, Bursledon. 19.00 sharp	1
<i>Tuesday 22 July</i>	Poole Harbour BBQ . A trip around Brownsen Island with a BBQ en-route. Meet at Rock Gardens car park, sandbanks (on the left just before the road becomes one-way) at 19.00. Bring food, drink, torch, midge repellent.	1
<i>Wed 26, 7 July ?</i>	Trewern . Welsh Canoeing Associations charity tour	3
<i>Sund 3rd August</i>	Lulworth > Warbarrow Bay : A paddle from Lulworth Cove to Warbarrow Bay. Meet at Lulworth Cove carpark at 09.30. Dependent on conditions, this is suitable for all regular paddlers. Contact Paul Toynton	2



CANEWS

May 1997

ILFRACOMBE SURFING
WEEKEND

23rd to 25th May 1997

This trip has been confirmed and the regular accommodation booked.

There are only 12 places

First Come First Served

So book your place with Nick NOW

Thanks Mandy

Most of you will know that Mandy is getting married in July, and has, sadly, decided not to renew her membership.

Mandy has kindly donated her helmet, buoyancy aid and neoprene boots to the club. Thank Mandy - and good luck in July - anytime you fancy a paddle, you know where we are.

Holme Pierrepont

For those of you who have not yet had an opportunity to sample the Slalom Course at Holme Pierrepont Nottingham, a brief account of my own first visit.

I had a meeting at the town hall at 2pm and so took the opportunity for a morning paddle (to ensure that the day wasn't an entire waste of time!!)

Here are some good and bad points to help you weigh-up the worth of a visit yourself -

Pro's

- It couldn't be easier - I just rolled up at the course at 10am (with all my kit).

paid £5. (+ £5 deposit for my bib) and went and played for a couple of hours.

- The course itself is very short, but packed full of features. You can get onto (& off) the water anywhere, or paddle from start to finish and carry your boat back for another run.
- There are plenty of holes and stoppers to play in (including a good looping 'Muncher')
- There are slalom gates to use for practice.
- The whole course is as safe as whitewater can get.
- There are changing rooms and hot showers (so I could don a suit and tie afterwards and disguise to clients what I was doing that morning!)

Cons

- The scenery! - its a man-made course, but for all that quite pleasant.
- It takes 3hrs and 15mins to drive there.
- It would be crowded at the weekend - I went on a Friday and shared the course with a dozen or so, which was fine.
- There are lots of 'Rodeo Stars' doing remarkable things.

**BASINGSTOKE CANAL
CHALLENGE**

11 MAY 1997

Race &/or fun paddle over 9, 18 or 32 miles on the Basingstoke Canal

Entry £3.00

in aid of *Boats for the Handicapped*

If anyone's interested - let me know ASAP

From: March 2nd

At 8.15am I set off to meet Nick - still high and aching from Friday night's sweet taste of success. My boat for this trip was going to meet me down there. Frances had rather kindly lent me her boat for the day - yet another boat I've paddled (thanks, Frances).

Before leaving Nick's we had to get his boat out of the front room - poor old Nick had been up half the night practising his rolling on the carpet. Marion was worrying about the paintwork (I think the house was built around the Eskimo). Finally we were on the road and Nick's driving made me white knuckled.

Graham had done a great job at rallying the troops, the only problem was which lay-by everybody was meeting in. We drove past John Beeson, and about three other lay-by's. Graham was seen racing up the road the wrong way (from Beckington) and Steve joined Nick and I in another lay-by.

We all managed to get to the start at Beckington. Ros, Steve, Liz, John, Graham, Nick and I made up the party. There was some discussion about the depth of water and it was generally agreed that it wasn't any better than last year.

The sun had begun to shine and there was plenty of blue sky, the wildlife at this stage was limited to a few polite fishermen and some cows. It remained warm throughout the day, making paddle mitts unnecessary.

The first weir looked a lot higher than it was and we all took it quite gently and gracefully, even though we hadn't really warmed up.

Most of the entertainment was provided by the 'whole-in-the-wall'. Liz decided to take it upside down and rescue practice was

completed. It was a powerful jet and the eddies were running back fast and swirling. The boat I was using proved to be very manoeuvrable and rolled up almost on its own. As you have probably gathered I went upside down.

We had a coffee stop and paddled on. The features were good considering the water level. I thought Graham had lost his marbles when he informed us that we had to go over one weir sideways to avoid the rocks. Only Liz clocked onto the fact that 45° was good enough, not 90°.

The channel and flume was very exhilarating and John and Graham wore themselves out trying to ride the wave. We then shot some more weirs after thawing Liz out.

It turned out to be a really enjoyable day and I managed to get out at the last bridge (an improvement on the fiasco of last year!)

Thanks to Graham for organising it, Frances for the loan of the boat and to everyone for making it enjoyable.

Mike Scott

RCC : Register of Equipment : 1997

Kayaks	Europa: Plastic	1	Peter M [1]	Spray Decks	more than 1 per kayak	>12	Barry D [2]	
	Falchion: Plastic	1	Paul T [1]		Paul T [2]			
	Reflex: GRP	4	Paul T [1]		Graham B [1]			
			Barry [1]		Alex M [1]			
			E&D [1]		Peter M [3]			
			Claire S [1]		Claire S [1]			
	Trisanna: GRP	1	Alex M [1]		Peter A [1]			
	Snipe: GRP	1	Peter M [1]					
	Unknown : White GRP	1						
	Pirouette: Plastic	1	Peter A [1]		Buoyancy aids	Lifeguard (medium)	1	Paul T [1]
Cyphur: Plastic	1	Barry [1]	Crewsaver (medium)	1		Karl H [1]		
Conquest: Plastic	1	Paul T [1]	Yak (medium/Large)	1		Barry D [1]		
			Yak (Small/medium)	1		Barry D [1]		
Canoes	Old Town Discovery Scouts	2	Karl H [2]	Yak (medium)	1	E&D [1]		
				Crewsaver (medium)	1	Claire S [1]		
				Mandy's Crewsaver (Small Adult)	1	Barry D [1]		
Paddles	Canadian Paddles	4	Karl H [4]	Other	1			
				Split Paddles	2	Barry D [1]	Throwlines	Green Slime 22 metre
	Paul T [1]	Light	Emergency Strobe Light			1		
	Kayak Paddles Various Makes		12	Barry D [3]	Light Sticks	20 ⁺	Barry D [12]	
				Karl H [2]	Distress Flares	red parachute	2	
	Paul T [3]		red handheld	2		Nick L [1]		
	Alex M [1]	orange smoke	2					
	Peter M [1]	Pocket mini-flares	6					
				Claire S [1]	Books	BCU Handbook	1	
				Peter A [1]		BCU Yearbook	1	Graham B
				BCU magazine			Graham F	
				Canocists Guide to the River Wye		1		
Helmets	AP2000 (fully adjustable)	2	Paul T [2]	Video	Three Regions River Guide	1		
					Mandy's Helmet	1	Barry D [1]	Permits

If any of the above is incorrect (i.e. kit has moved on) please let me know

Upper Dart : Feb 21st

January was a long month - the drought had kept us off the rivers and several trips had been cancelled. I had waited along time for this - but it was certainly worth the wait!!

Access had been booked for the 5th January, but with a winter drought, and everyone going down with flu, that trip had been cancelled and I had some difficulty in getting access for another date at this late stage. However, I managed to get 6 places for a Friday and had no difficulty in persuading 5 others to take a day off work. The Upper Dart (from Dartmeet to Newbridge) is only open in January and February each year and access is very restricted (3 parties each day)

It being my first trip down this section, and having been told so many hairy stories about this stretch of river I had, for the first time, hoped that the rain would keep off and the river levels would be on the low side. As luck would have it, it rained for the preceding 10 days and the rivers were rising fast. Stories of the Loop trip a few days previously were enough to put a few people off, and comments such as "you must be mad!" did not inspire me with confidence.

Any way, we arrived at Kilmington Cafe, that is Pete, Steve F, Karl H, John, Mike (from Solent) and myself, to eat what has become the traditional hearty breakfast for these trips. Then we ate Pete and Mike the opportunity to wind us all up with accounts of previous mishaps on the Upper Dart. Not that any wind-up was necessary, Karl & I had done a fair job already that morning changing wheels driving in the pouring rain.

We parked up at Newbridge and checked the river levels - took perfect (i.e. lapping and slightly washing the shelf) - and I began to

forget the doom and gloom comments and was anxious to get on the water

What a beautiful bit of water too. The river, running through a steep wooded valley, is fast, steep, bouncy and exhilarating. After a half mile warm-up your in constant grade 3 & 4 territory almost the whole 7km to Newbridge. Because of access restrictions you don't encounter the crowds that are experienced on the Loop and so you can play on everything and anything - and there is no shortage of great play spots.

While the river is graded upto 5 at Euthanasia falls (depending on which books you read!), at the medium river levels we were experiencing, and providing you get your initial line right, its an easy fall to negotiate (even backward, isn't it Karl!). Perhaps if I had got it all wrong I wouldn't think that it was 'over-graded'!

Having said that, it is not a river that you can float down broadside while chatting. Some of the falls are fairly complex and require concentration and some pretty technical paddling (or hard praying)

I recommend a paddle here to anyone who happily paddles the Loop and has a reliable river roll - which we all used. (some more than others!) We had no major casualties and only one swimmer (and I promised not to name him, but he's looking for new contact lenses)

It took us 4 hours to reach Newbridge and I had enjoyed one of the best paddles so far! I'm planning to book access for two trips in Jan/Feb 98 so let me know

Thanks to Mike, Pete and Steve F for showing us the best routes and winding us up before the event!

France : April 97

26 paddlers, in 11 Canoes, one 17-seater mini-bus and Canoe trailer, one Landrover, Larry's BMW and two kit trailers made the trip. The weather, campsites, river, scenery and food were all excellent. There were no injuries or mishaps and very few grumbles (which is amazing considering the number of youngsters in the party!)

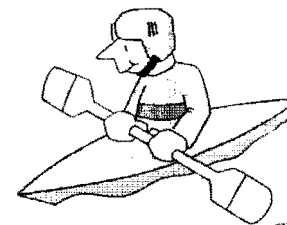
Jaqui has volunteered to write the trip up (for next *Canews*), but I couldn't let this one go without a big thanks to the Porters for all the effort that they put into making the weekend such a success.

Lets hope it can become an annual event

EDITOR'S CORNER

Thanks to all of you for sending back the 'Kit Register' forms.

The register given in this Canews is based on the info received. If there's any



"A smooth sea never made a skilful mariner"

(English Proverb)

changes/additions, please let me know.

Why so short?

*Rather than wait for the normal deluge of articles that I have come to expect from my fellow paddlers !!!, I thought it best to push this foreshortened edition of *Canews* out prior to the AGM. That way no one has any excuses for missing the the meeting. See below.*

AGM

Saturday 10th May

7.30pm, White Heart, Ringwood

Tracey Allen has volunteered to talk about her paddles in Europe.

PLEASE FIND THE TIME TO ATTEND