



# CANEWS

September 2005

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### THANKS FOR THE ARTICLES!

It takes 10 minutes to share a trip with other members – get your pens/ keyboards out for the next issue – or dictate the report on your phone on the drive home (hands free if you're the driver!!) and pass it onto me for transcribing! Anything will do

DON'T FORGET THE WEB SITE – the event list is kept up to date and the notice board, trip reports, etc. are there for you to fill !

[www.ringwood.canoe.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.ringwood.canoe.btinternet.co.uk)

+ - the photos are in colour – by the time this has been through the photo-copier it loses so much!!

[HTTP://WWW.RIVERSACCESS.ORG](http://WWW.RIVERSACCESS.ORG)

Have you visited the BCU's river access web site yet/recently. It has been updated and everyone should at least visit the site to 'Log' their support and to report any 'Access Incidents'. The BCU seem to gradually be getting their act together

PADDLE TO WESTMINSTER – WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER

Demo for access being arranged by the BCU – see UKriversguidebook community pages or

[www.riversaccess.org/](http://www.riversaccess.org/) for details. If you can take time off work this is your chance to become an activist for the day.

### CAPTION COMPETITION



Ross tests out the new aqua-facial spa bath.

Visit the web site for the Caption Competition

### FOR SALE

#### Eskimo Topolino

I have a red one of these classic creek boats, been garaged and used two seasons so in reasonable condition; comes with bow and stern Eskimo airbags, standard full-plate footrest, soft seat and the better type of plastic (coex blowmolded)

#### Wavesport Z

Tri-colour red/purple/black – excellent surf come river boat – ideally suited to taller/larger paddler, in good condition and garaged. Made from original crosslinked plastic considered better quality than the soft linear plastic ones manufactured recently.

Both have been gathering dust for a while and would be good to de-clutter the garage.

I am after £250 and £350 (offers) respectively and based in Dorset, frequent Devon regularly if this helps.

Contact Elliott Gully

### WE ARE 'COOL' (OFFICIAL)

Message from Mark Rainsley:-

I have here a copy of last Sunday Times' 'Style' supplement, which I obviously use avidly every week to check that my lifestyle is still in vogue with current fashion and trends.

Anyway, sea kayaking is identified on page 37 as one of the coolest of the 'latest high octane sports'.

'Canoeing's cooler cousin'

'The sport's spirit lies in wilderness adventure'

'If you want to look fabulous in a racer-back vest, this one's for you - sea kayaking sculpts your arms and shoulders like nothing else.'

'Burns 368 calories per hour'

'Feeling it lift and plane at high speeds scores high on the thrill count'

'One of the biggest adrenaline charges for the least amount of real danger'

## ANOTHER WORLD (DORSET COAST JULY 2005)

(Elliott – this is a factual account with a hint of humour)



I've no idea why I began to experience a growing interest in long pointy Sea Kayaks – it could have been accounts from others on club sea trips (but these were few and far between), perhaps the photos that Douglas Wilcox posts to UKriversguidebook, maybe the long summers with no surf and no rivers or the number of paddling friends that have recently acquired 'the knowledge' or a latent desire not to shave. Who knows, but I already had the Tilly hat – all I needed was a boat.

As luck would have it, just as this growing interest was becoming an itch, I heard that Liz Sambell was selling Steve's old Nordkapp HS. Elliott brought it down for me to try out at Mudeford one Tuesday. He had already discounted purchasing it himself – explaining that his manly physique prevented a comfortable ride. It was this Tuesday evening that I began to acquire 'the knowledge' (you can't flat spin a sea kayak, bow rudders are less than useful, and the turning circle is more akin to that of a Boeing 747 than a Wavesport EZ) – what amazed me, however, is that I loved it – fast, comfortable and a brand new set of attainable skills to learn. Needless to say, I had bought the boat within 24 hours – just in time for Paul T's Dorset Coast Camping trip the coming weekend

I spent the next couple of evenings trying to acquire more of the knowledge – I started delving into a book on Sea Kayak Navigation – but put it down after 5 minutes. Far too much to learn there, tides and tidal streams, charts and bouyage etc – it was clearly not a question of pointing the boat downhill and enjoying the ride. Anyway, I figured that for a paddle along the coast West of Swanage I should be OK keeping the land on my right. I turned then to thinking about the kit list – but, hell, the boat had these cavernous holds so no thought was necessary it could hold anything I could think of. Aware that my knowledge remained weak, and I was paddling with the elite of RCC's sea kayakers!, I had a plan to ensure that my inexperience wouldn't stand out - I invited a friend (Richard) who, despite having his own Sea Kayak, had only paddled a few times before. If anyone was going to be the butt of the Jokes, let it be Richard rather than myself

7 of us met at Swanage on a glorious morning - Paul T and Elliott, Dot and Mike, Tim B, Richard and I. The normal chaos of an RCC river trip was outstripped by this Sea Kayak business. We took over the beach by the pier – boats, drybags, stoves, tents, bowls, gallons of water – the mountain of 'stuff' that we were taking was awesome.

I watched the others pack their boats, trying to establish if there was a recognised protocol – but having seen Paul picking up handfuls randomly and slinging them into holds I felt confident that there was no established system and that I wouldn't make a complete fool of myself. What was a little

worrying was that Richard seemed to know what he was doing. Perhaps even more worrying was all the strange stuff Elliott (Mears) was packing

We set off at around 11:00 - the plan being to paddle 15 miles to Warbarrow Bay, against the tide and a light prevailing wind. This seemed at odds with common sense but who was I to argue. We glided off into an azure sea – the long sleek boats shifting along with so little effort. The Nordkapp has a reputation for being very 'tippy' but I had quickly become accustomed to this on the previous Tuesday, and found the secondary stability excellent - now, fully laden, it proved very comfortable. Hugging the Coast to avoid the tidal stream we made good progress. Kittiwakes and Guilimots were around, but no Puffins and no 'Durlston Dolphins'. After a short stop at Dancing Ledge we approached Aldhelm's head. Despite the tides there seemed to be white horses – the promise of some play at the overfalls there, but, sadly, nothing of consequence and so on to a late lunch at Chapman's Pool.



Mid afternoon and the tide had turned, but any advantage that this might have offered was wiped out by a quickening South Westerly, eventually picking up to F6, stirring up a nice chop. While progress became a little more laboured, the sun still shone and the sea became playful. By the time we reached Kimmeridge (5'ish) some were feeling weary and by the time we hit Warbarrow (6:30'ish) we were all keen to find a camp spot out of the wind. Having gamely paddled the whole length of Warbarrow bay (twice!) we settled on a mid-point spot for bivvying amongst the rocks. It seemed idyllic and the wind had dropped but a few problems then arose.

- Paul's hatch covers were found to have perished – the toilet roll was amongst the sopping casualty list, and to cap this Tim found un-exploded shells sharing the paperless facilities
- No one had any 'real' coffee – 'Instant' would prove a first for Paul
- And Elliott, keen to practice his newly acquired 'bushcraft' skills discovered the beach was almost entirely devoid of timber, yet alone bushes. A thousand plastic bottles was no substitute

Still, we set up camp, managed to find a few timber spars and Elliott opened up his box of tricks to light a fire (insisting that the gas lighter, offered, was not 'playing the game'). Meals were cooked, beer and wine opened and the conversation was so entertaining that Tim managed to stay up until gone 10pm!

I could hear Paul, of course, rattling pots and stoking the fire before 6:00 the following morning. An early start was clearly on the cards so a quick swim and I joined him for 'instant'. 3 hours later Dot and Mike surfaced – it was close to 10:00 before we were all ready to leave. I guess this was an early start by RCC standards.

The air was still, the sea glassy and the tide with us. An easy 15 mile drift back to Swanage lay ahead. At Kimmeridge the previous day there was a notice on the dive board exclaiming 20M visibility!! And we found ourselves in another world – drifting across an aquarium. Our boats were now ‘flying’ over clear waters, the sea bed, fish, anemones and other sea life clearly visible below us. It was hard to lift our eyes up to the cliffs to watch the Peregrines!

We were at Swanage by 3pm, having hardly noticed the distance paddled – quick Ice creams and we were off

So this is what Sea Kayaking is all about – OK, certainly in the conditions we had, it does not provide an adrenaline fix, but it does open a whole new and changing world to explore while getting some needed exercise. I’m looking forward to the next time I can get out in my sea boat.

Graham

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## LULWORTH COVE JULY 2005

We all set off on a calm overcast morning but it was quite warm. A combination of sea kayaks and general all-rounder boats. Going past the Stair Hole the water was reasonably calm and a few paddled near to the rocks, the less confident stayed out a bit to avoid the incoming mounds of waves.

As the sea seemed calm, most of us paddled round to Bat Cave and through the arch which was quite interesting. The other side widened out into a part of beach which cannot be approached from a path and looked similar to a golden beach of the Mediterranean (without the sun). Durdle Door gave some of us a bit of fun too attempting to go through before a large wave got us.

Finally we arrived on Durdle Door Beach (Man o War Bay) where we stayed for lunch, seal launched down a few stones and tried out various boats. I had a go in one of the Sea Kayaks and decided it might be a bit wobbly. The sun eventually came out and we sunbathed for a while whilst eating sandwiches.

On the way back, the water was a bit more choppy but not enough to prevent an exploration of stairhole along the way. A few of us whizzed in and out avoiding the waves much to the onlookers interest.

It was a great trip, and can be real fun when the sea is calm and also when it is more bumpy.

Helen

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## ACCESS

Kevin East and James Hives were invited to a meeting of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum in September 2005 to present the national and local case for greater access to water, and suggest how the Forum could support this. I spoke to Kevin before the meeting but have not heard, as yet, how it went.

I will keep you informed but, in the interim, I thought I would reproduce a briefing note from the BCU on the recent history of the access debate

### Advance information

The British Canoe Union (BCU) is the UK Governing body, recognised by the Sports Councils, for the sport and recreation of canoeing. It represents some 57,000 canoeists both as individual members and through over 600 affiliated clubs. Overall, some 2 million people go canoeing each year.

Government sponsored research has confirmed the BCU long held view that there is public access to less than 4% of rivers in England and Wales. Some of the most beautiful stretches of waterways do not have agreed access and a person could be committing a trespass by so much as wading in it, let alone canoeing on it.

The BCU through the federal divisions of Canoe England and the Welsh Canoe Association are campaigning on behalf of their members and others in the community who seek to secure greater access to the rivers in England and Wales.

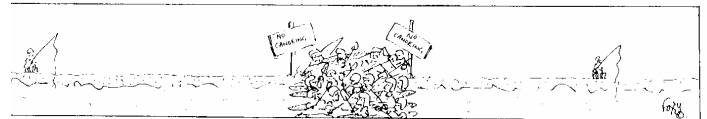
### Government Sponsored Research

DEFRA commissioned the University of Brighton to produce the research “Water-based sport and recreation: the facts (2001)”. A BCU Briefing Note with an extract from the research detailing the linear river resource and rivers with public navigation rights is appended.

Water-based sport and recreation: the facts” can be obtained from DEFRA, Countryside Division, Zone1/03, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

This research was followed by a second study by the University of Brighton, “Improving Access for Canoeing on Inland Waterways - A Study of the Feasibility of Access Agreements”; and completed in May 2004. The study reported difficulties for negotiating access agreements. However, the study recommended a further study to seek access agreements on four rivers and this work commenced in January 2005.

Access to and along water has been an issue for the BCU and increasingly so over the past 50 years, mirroring the problems encountered by climbers, walkers and ramblers.



**1999** - The Countryside and Rights of Way Bill was seen as an opportunity to improve access to water. The BCU unsuccessfully lobbied for the inclusion of water in the CRoW Bill and caused the initiation of the campaign “Access to water”.

**March 2000** - Secretary of State, Environment, Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP and Minister Chris Mullins MP accept there is a case for improved access to water.

**October 2000** - Department of the Environment commission the University of Brighton to undertake the study, “Water based Sport and Recreation: the facts” for England and Wales. The findings published in 2001 confirm the restricted public access to rivers and overall situation familiar to the BCU.

**January 2002** – BCU officers, members and affiliated groups commence lobby of MP’s and ministers.

An Early Day Motion signed by 72 MPs recognises the need to open more inland water for sport and recreation and public access.

**October 2002** – the Government actions further research into access to water.

**March 2003** - University of Brighton are appointed as consultants to undertake research for - “Improving Access for Canoeing on Inland Waters: A study on the Feasibility of Access Agreements”. Four rivers are selected: Rivers Waveney, Mersey, Teme and Wear.

**May 2004** - the study is published and reports difficulty in gaining the co-operation and instances of outright opposition from other river interests for negotiating access.

The Countryside Agency Board issue a paper recommending it was possible to provide additional access by voluntary agreements. This position is contrary to the facts drawn out by the study.

The BCU maintains that voluntary access agreements do not offer a solution to the large-scale problems of access to and along water.

**September 2004** - Rt Hon Alun Michael MP writes to Local Access Forums to request they extend their remit to other recreation and access issues, to include water.

**October 2004** - BCU meets with the minister and he indicates a further study to achieve access agreements on the four rivers will be undertaken with the Environment Agency as lead. BCU maintain the only positive way forward is primary legislation, but will co-operate with the EA in any further studies.

**January 2005** – The EA commences work to seek access agreements for the Rivers Waveney and Mersey and this continues to-date. Work on the Rivers Teme and Wear is planned later in 2005.

**April 2005** - DEFRA and DCMS ministers jointly write to LAF's to request they work in conjunction with Regional Sports Boards.

**April 2005** – Surrey LAF agree to the need for primary legislation for access to water.

Watch this space?

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## FIRST SURF REEF IN EUROPE PLANNED

From the BBC website ...

Plans for an £8m seafront development, which will include Europe's first artificial surf reef, have been given the green light.

Planners in Bournemouth agreed the proposal for Boscombe on Monday night.

Much of the revamp will be complete by 2007, and the surf reef - creating up to 8ft waves - is expected to be operational in 2008.

The project includes 170 homes at the eastern end of the car park and 42 beach huts on the seafront.

Councillor Rob Copeland said: "The whole team is absolutely delighted.

"We're enhancing the areas unique character by sympathetically renovating the existing buildings, but also giving Boscombe something different - a European first, the artificial surf reef.

"Surfing is a great niche to be tapping into - it's a massively growing sport and has fabulous spectating potential too.

"I am really looking forward to seeing the fantastic difference this will make to the people of Boscombe and as an additional draw to Bournemouth as a whole."

The scheme involves renovating the pier and converting the centre part of the Overstrand building to a restaurant with panoramic views and adding lifeguard facilities to the ground floor

More information on the construction can be found at:

[www.bournemouth-surfing.co.uk/community-reef.php](http://www.bournemouth-surfing.co.uk/community-reef.php)

but the scheme is to put big sausage shaped bags of sand about 70m offshore each side of Boscombe pier.

I wonder if it will work – and, if it does, if there will be any room for kayakers on the break!!

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## DADS AND LADS ON THE CORUH



Andy was now 17 – an age when his keenness to travel and his growing abilities as a paddler were only matched by his inadequacy of funds and far too many exams. I was looking for a suitable venue for a short 'Dad and Lad' trip – a taster of foreign lands and big water. The Coruh (pronounced "Choroo") in Turkey seemed to fit the bill.



The Coruh is set in the remote rugged north east corner of Turkey – far away from the tourist hot-spots of the South. The river flows east, along the Kacgar mountains, and into Georgia before breaking its way North through to the Black Sea. I knew that the river offered some fairly continuous and high-volume class 3-4+ rapids in June - just after Andy's exams were due to finish. I also knew a few paddlers that had been out there and asked them what the likelihood was of the two of us finding other paddlers to hook up with. They were doubtful, but Water By Nature ran trips out there with everything laid on. More £'s of course, but who cares – we are off paddling. Chas and his son Richard also elected to join us – deposits were paid and we settled back to a few months more work/exams. There were a few preparations to make too – Andrew needed a ratchet back-rest retro-fitted to his King pin and Richard found he could no longer get into his booster and had to purchase a new boat. The £'s were already flowing.

Water By Nature (WBN) warned us shortly before departure that Turkish Airlines can refuse to carry kayaks. Despite having successfully flown kayaks to different parts of the globe before, this put the wind up us on the way to the airport. We had packed and re-packed to get everything (including kayaks etc) below the 23kg weight allowance. We arrived well before the check-in desks opened - better to leave plenty of time and catch the check-in staff in good unrushed moods when travelling with kayaks. "I'm sorry Sir, but there will be a small handling charge of £11 per 'surf board'. That was it, no hassle, no worries and 3 hours to kill before departure (more £s). We arrived at the Sultan's Inn, Istanbul at mid-night. - time only for quick minerals on the roof terrace before turning in.



The following morning it was a flight to Erzurum, where we were met by WBN guides. We loaded up the battered Morris for a 3 hour road trip through the mountains – snow still on the peaks. Late afternoon saw us at the banks of the Coruh, near Maden, some 30km's upstream of Ispir. We (the four of us together with 6 other 'punters') gathered around for the normal pre-trip briefing – tent maintenance, camp hygiene and dunny protocol. Most of Clive's words were drowned out by the gurgling chatter of a thousand frogs and the incessant whine of a million mossies. I did pick up a bit of good news, though – the Coruh was running much higher than normal for this time of year – a 10-year high that should provide for plenty of fun.

After 2 days travelling, listening to the sounds of the river (and frogs and mossies) and anticipating some fine paddling in the days ahead we drifted off to a sound sleep. We were blissfully unaware of the Brown Bear and large Snake that visited 100m from camp during the night.

Clear blue skies and growing temperatures joined us for a mellow grade 2 warm-up in the morning – a chance for getting accustomed or re-accustomed to big-volume paddling. After a couple of hours clouds brewed up - then thunder, lightening and hail as we hit the lunch stop. We sheltered under an old steel football stand at a long-forgotten and abandoned football field - shivering. The afternoon run (another 15K down to the steps of Ispir) was great. The river soon entering a narrow gorge to provide fairly continuous grade 3 with loads of nice wave trains and surf waves - all read and run. A few paddlers pulled out and joined the Landrover but Andrew was totally pumped - a huge grin on his face as he discovered the fun in volume.

Cold and knackered after a long days paddle, we pulled out just before the Joan Collins set of rapids and wandered down to take a look at the first 3 Ispir Steps (Joan/Alexis/Bitch). Easy to choose lines down these class 5 falls when sipping beer from the bank but, at these levels, no one was to run them - the Landrover shuttled us around to a camp a few hundred metres downstream (just above Dynasty and Stud). The clouds had disappeared, and the evening sun was sufficient to dry out the kit and warm up our bones. Beers and nibbles were out, a fire lit and the conversation lively. We had left the mossies far behind (they were only ever a problem that first night).



The second days paddle was a reasonably mellow 30 km grade 3 run. The sun was shining and there were endless waves to play on. It should have been an uneventful day but there were 5 swims in the morning. We soon appreciated the advantages of having a road running alongside the river. We had a Cat raft but this was purely for rescues (picking bodies up and getting them back in their boats) and not for passengers. With the Landrover running along side us – paddlers who found it all too much could hop out, sit on the roof and take the photos. With the numbers whittled down we enjoyed a fast and playful afternoon. We must have spent over an hour at a single dream wave.

After a good day on the water, moonlight, Moussaka and a good Islay Malt around a camp fire - followed by Turkish Delight - what more could you ask for.

The following day saw more of the continuous grade 3's – floating through beautiful scenery, looking out for Rollers, Bee-eaters, Hoopoes and red Kites, drifting past many Byzantine castles perched high on the hills. We hiked up to one of these at Tekkale ("single-Castle") for lunch – trekking across the rice paddies and picking mulberries and cherries off the trees on the way



There were a few long 4+ rapids to run in the afternoon and scouting the first of these ('Perfect Portage') I knew that this would prove the biggest test for Andrew yet. It is one thing to run a long hard rapid yourself, but watching your son take on the challenge is much much more difficult!! I needn't have worried – hearing his adrenaline-fired whoops all the way down.



After another long days paddle we clambered with our boats for a few hundred yards up to Cemile's paddlers pad. This is a small pension in the tiny village of Tikali that has existed since the days when Dave Mamby first opened up this river for paddlers back in 1982. Indeed Dave still frequents the place, and joined us for dinner and the following days paddle. Photos of paddlers from all over the world are pinned to the walls. Sleeping arrangements are on simple wooden platforms. We took over Cemile's gardens, drying kit and setting up the kitchen etc. The big farm house table was set and, despite being Wednesday, we declared it 'Red Wine Thursday' and enjoyed a civilised dinner.



A long paddling day followed – in the morning we headed up to Sarigol to paddle the river Bahal down to Yusufeli. The Bahal made for a pleasant change – very continuous lower volume alpine style grade 3 – with clear icy cold snow melt, running through a beautiful valley with plenty of entertaining drops. We pulled out in the middle of Yusufeli town and enjoyed hot soup and kebabs at a restaurant – still donning wet kit.



After the late lunch around half of us elected to run the Coruhs

best 'Yusufeli Gorge' – a 1 hour continuous roller-coaster grade 4+ ride with 5 or more major rapids. We spent almost as long scouting the rapids from the Landrover first before returning to Yusufeli, paddling down the Bahal to its confluence with the Coruh and running the gorge. The falls proved significantly larger than they appeared from the road – but we enjoyed an incident free and fun filled end to the day. It was gone 6:30 pm when we pulled in, loaded and returned to Tikali

Sadly sickness hit the camp that night – and Andrew and I were amongst others that missed a repeat run of the gorge the following morning before the road trip back to Erzurum. A Hamam (Turkish Bath) and massage, followed by a gourmet meal that evening finished off the trip nicely and prepared us for the flight home the following day and a return to work/school

#### Info

Graham, Andy, Chas and Rich paddled with Doug and John (a couple of pro's from Aviemore), Scouse (a QS with attitude), Ewan, Alice and Sarah – all well fed by the WBN crew of Clive, Dougie and Gerard

The Coruh provides an excellent first big-volume trip. A dependable roll will get you down the river easily and anything you don't want to run is easily portaged. The continuous nature of the rapids ensures that you will never be bored. The river runs from May, we went in mid-June. Dave Mamby writes "*If you are a grade V paddler you will love this river. If you are a good Grade V paddler go early; not only is the Coruh high and powerful but all the side creeks are running as well. If you feel happy on Grade IV then by the end of June the river will have dropped and the power subsided and the fun starts. Grade III paddlers will find that by the end of July the river is manageable though still testing at times*" The landscape, wildlife, culture and people of this far corner of Turkey are the icing on the cake. If you are a group it should be reasonably easy to organise yourselves and shuttles independently – staying in Cemile's lodge at Tikale or at the camp site in Yusufeli. If you are short of time or numbers, Water by Nature put on a good show and take all the organisational hassle out of a trip of this type.

Plenty of good photos on the web site

[www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk](http://www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk)

Graham