



CANEWS

July 2012

EDITOR'S CORNER

THE WEB SITE – www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk

A BIG thank you to the contributors

RCC HISTORY

Old issues of Canews are available to download and savour. See some real old school paddling!, find out what happened a decade or so ago, and for those RCC long-timers, relive some memories and cringe at what you, or others, said at the time.

DON'T FORGET

RCC Forum



Don't miss out on impromptu trips, gossip and banter.

If you haven't registered – please get in touch with Graham or Simon who will set up your registration

RC Photo Gallery



Share your photos with all members

CAPTION COMPETITION

Visit the web site for the Caption Competition.



Disappointingly we didn't receive any entries for this one – and so it stays where it is ☹

TUESDAY 22ND MAY

Summer came with a rush to Mundeford this third week in May and the attendance went up from 2 last week (so I'm reliably informed by Nichola Idoitinanyweather Ross) to 21 this week! Lots of fair weather paddlers brushed the cobwebs off their boats and enjoyed a lovely warm and sunny paddle on a flat sea under a clear sky. Where were the rest of you?

Barry Fairweather Deakin

JULIAN BUTLER MEMORIAL RACE 2012

This year's race was held in idyllic conditions; a calm evening with high tide shortly after the start. This gave potential for record breaking, although a river full of rain gave very strong currents on the Avon loop, slowing progress on the upstream leg and speeding the return one. Thirteen paddlers took part with three others, non-competitive by religion perhaps, escorting youngsters or checking the route for hazards.

I was responsible for handicapping as usual, but got there later than the others and was a bit confused by the mixture of boats and people on the beach. In this confusion I have to say that I misunderstood what a couple of people were paddling and there were some badly chosen handicaps. Sorry folks.

Claire Adams did a wonderful job of timekeeping, and I'm sure she was honest when recording her daughter Zoe's winning time, nearly 6 minutes ahead of the next boat. She told me Zoe hadn't paddled since last year, so I gave her a zero handicap, but I didn't realise that she was paddling a sea kayak this time. Had I known I would have given her a handicap of 5 minutes, so she would still have won easily. Well done Zoe. Fifteen minute handicap for you next year.

Second home was Jason White, a new member paddling a long sit-on-top, a boat I have no experience of, so he was an unknown quantity for handicapping. Must look out for him next year! The next few boats came within a couple of minutes of each other, and I'm sure the rest would have done so too if they'd paddled a bit harder! Our Chairman looked very statesmanlike as I passed him cruising calmly, with poise and elegance, near the top of the course, a couple of lengths behind Nichola who dipped her paddles occasionally as I passed.

I am known for being "never knowingly overdressed" as Mike Farnden might put it, but I believe the race proved my policy to be a sound one. I managed the fastest time around the course dressed for the conditions in shorts and thermal shirt with no spraydeck necessary in the flat calm conditions, passing others with cags, decks and even wetsuits. Sweaty bunch. I hope they all showered afterwards. The previous course record was 49 minutes and I took almost a minute off that, while Dave Eagles almost matched it, admittedly despite being overdressed.

Chris with no name was a guest paddler on another sit-on-top, soon to be a member I'm told.

Special apology to James Mussett who was game enough to start at the same time as his father, who said I should give his son a 5 minute start. What they didn't tell me was that James was in a white water kayak while Graham was in his sea kayak. James should have started with those first away, 16 minutes ahead of his dad.

	Boat type	Start time	Finish time	Lapsed time	Position
		minutes	minutes	minutes	
Zoe Adams	Sea kayak	0	61.8	61.8	1
Jason White	Sea kayak sit on top	16	67.6	51.6	2
Graham Mussett	Sea kayak	16	70.0	54.0	3
Dave Eagles	Sea kayak	21	70.5	49.5	4
Barry Deakin	Sea kayak	23	71.2	48.2	5
Sheila Ryan	White water kayak	0	72.5	72.5	6
Mike Worth	Sea kayak	17	74.5	57.5	7
Chris	Short sit on top	10	75.9	65.9	8
Nichola Ross	Sea kayak	16	76.4	60.4	9
Gareth Sampson	Short touring kayak	8	77.7	69.7	10
Wesley Sampson	Short touring kayak	8	77.7	69.7	11
Caitlin Adams	Touring kayak	0	84.4	84.4	12
James Mussett	White water kayak	16	89.1	73.1	13

MINUTES OF MEETING 12TH JUNE 2012 AT THE HAVEN, MUDEFORD

Present: Mike Worth (Chairman), Barry Deakin (Treasurer), Dot Tilley, Rich Jennings, the Adams family, Graham & James Mussett, Simon Burke, Sheila Ryan, Dave Eagles, Jason White, Nichola Ross.

Apologies: Graham Bland (Secretary)

In the absence of the Secretary, the Chairman decided that the Treasurer doesn't do enough to justify his title and delegated him to take the minutes.

Mike opened the meeting by presenting Zoe Adams with the Julian Butler Memorial Trophy, after she had won the annual handicap race by a huge margin. Well done Zoe, now the youngest solo paddler on the Trophy.

Treasurer's Report: The club funds are £1860 and so we are in good shape to invest in replacement open canoes. Barry is still looking for second hand ones.

Events: Some alterations and additions to the Events list were discussed.

Steve Sambell memorial paddle – cancelled

Slovenia trip - cancelled

Trip on the Kennet and Avon canal near Bath – Mike Worth to arrange

Trip on the Kennet and Avon canal near Pewsey – Mike Worth to arrange

Surfing weekend in North Devon, 31st Aug – 2nd Sept – Richard Jennings

Ladies open canoeing evening – Barry to arrange

Sandbanks to Swanage trip – Dave Eagles to arrange

Lepe to Beaulieu trip – Graham Mussett to arrange

Poole Harbour evening barbecue – Dot to arrange

Keyhaven Tuesday evening paddle – Barry to arrange

Southampton Water trip, perhaps to the Jolly Sailor, Ashlett Creek – Mike Worth to arrange

Other Business: There was none.

HURST SPIT BIVVI

Weather forecast wind and rain, as usual, bit depressing as we all want to get on the water. But it was the annual Dot Hurst Spit Bivvi and a little thing like weather wasn't going to get in the waybut it did. Dots Saturday early morning e mail was for a goer, but then we looked at wind Guru and thought that Hurst might be a little windswept, and the holding properties of the ground for pitching is nearly useless, so back to the drawing board and a decision was made to stay in Poole Hbr as we could get out of the wind. The meet was at 6pm at Lake Pier or the little beach further away so that we could have a little bit of extra paddle, as was suggested by Mr Mercer, he likes to have a little bit more.

Ian and myself met up down at the little beach and stood looking towards Gold Point on Arne peninsula, which is where we were headed, in fact the destination was just a bit further round near the clay pit. The wind was blowing straight in at us and yes it was blowing, the flags were out straight and I suppose you could say it looked interesting for open boating.

We decided to wait for Jake Wiltshire and his lad Charlie. I think Jakes words were he was going for a low profile as he loaded huuge great bags into his open boat (it was after all a one night bivvy!!) then it was time to man up, launch and paddle like a thingyame into the eye of the tiger.

It was good, very refreshing and good hard get yer head down paddling and after what seemed a throat parching episode we got into the lee of Arne and got a nice lift from an eddy which helped us up to our pitch for the evening.

It was lovely, a nice bit of white sandy beach, a lovely Oak tree at the water's edge to dissipate the BBQ smoke and a few trees in a glade to sling the hammocks from, and no people, bliss. The sun was shining and we were out of the wind and life was good, double bliss.

Mark Gleed pulled up on the beach refreshed after his paddle and thankful that he had been on Barry Silverback's course of 'Severe Wind Paddling' on the river Dart, which had now served its purpose as he reckoned this was a breeze, well maybe a bit more, but 'not like the Daaaaart'.

The feminine sea kayak section arrived Dot and Nicky, so the party was complete, where were the rest of RCC eh , too windy for you!!

Now we knew why Jake had so many bags, sadly Lisa had not been able to make it as she was poorly , but Jake hadn't scaled back the kit. Up went the 7 sleeper Tent Tipi, lovely piece of kit. Out came the firebox/bbq, charcoal bags and everything else, six piece string quartet, swimming pool, waiters and string of dancing girls. No I only kid, 'Im on another on another laarge gin & tonic!!.

It was a really nice evening Dots menu was 2 lamb chops AND a HUGE chicken thigh plus her normal veg, gosh !!!

Ian was trying out ready meals boil in the bags and they were good, Nicky had her sausages out, Mark was slicing and dicing to add to pasta, Jake was imitating Mac Donalds, I was a tinned curry from only your M& S, I did have to cook the rice though. All this while young Charlie was demonstrating the use of a burning branch from the fire!!

Sadly Nicky had to leave us and go to some mysterious assignation in Oxfordmy imagination runs wild.

Next morning beautiful sun rise, then I closed my eyes and went back to sleep, but only for a while, I needed to hum along to the rather natty little alarm tune on Ian's phone, then I

closed my eyes but for a while, the crinkly wrappers on Ian's cakes echo's around the glade, whilst he happily sits swinging in his hammock, munching. But his new brew kit makes no sound, tis good.

So up and breakfasted, boats packed tis a new day .Mark, who had slept in brown paper bag on the beach (a bivvi bag) had to leave and a fair following wind scudded him off down to Lake Pier .

We, those hardy few, had a good hard paddle across to Rockley, through the bridge and then battled the wind in Lytchett Bay until common sense prevailed and we returned to Rockley for a hot chocolate. After that back to the put in, the paddle was not as easy as it could have been, the wind not really in the right quarter. But job done, it had been a great paddle and done the muscles some real good .To cap it all we had a good Sunday Roast on the way home, and for me a quick kip in the lay bye on my journey back.

Thanks Dot for not giving in to your wind and making the Bivvi night a really good weekend.

Captain Mayhem. (Mike W)

POOLE HARBOUR CAMP

In such a soggy summer it's hard to summon up the enthusiasm for camping. A few of us did though, partly out of determination to beat the weather and partly out of a sense of duty to the land owner. He only accepts a single group booking at a time and we've cancelled two such bookings in recent years because of foul weather so we don't have a very good record with him.

In the past I've poured scorn on those who've driven to the site on the southern shore of Poole Harbour for a canoeing weekend as we've turned up, quite properly, in our boats with compact camping kit. This year, depressed by the forecast, I was humbly with them, and we took our massive "Taj Mahal" tent which would house everyone on a foul evening, and a big tarp to provide an undercover camp kitchen and windbreak. Having conceded defeat and opted to drive, we filled the car with all the stuff we might take on a fortnight's touring and camping trip. All the comforts and the kitchen sink.

Friday evening's assembled company had a happy time at my expense, as I waited patiently for my briquettes to rise to cooking temperature. They must have been affected by the wet summer too and barely got above hand warming heat. Thanks for bringing your firebox and some seasoned wood Jake.

He impressed me again on Saturday as he, Lisa and their son Charlie took their open boat to Old Harry Rocks and back in less than ideal conditions. Our gallant Chairman accompanied them in his sea kayak while Bev, Dot, Nichola and I walked up onto Nine Barrow Down, along Brenscombe Hill to Corfe, and back along some very soggy paths over the Purbeck clays. A great walk full of variety, and some of the meadows were beautifully full of flowers, presumably the hay remaining uncut because of the weather.

We had planned a modest walk in the morning and a paddle in the afternoon when the tide returned to fill up the harbour, but there wasn't any enthusiasm for that after walking, what I later measured as, 9 miles. Instead we joined Mike Scott, our camp guardian, in eating and relaxing.

Mike W said he needed something from the shops so Dot drove him to Corfe. They came back a couple of hours later and luckily didn't encounter any police as Mike drove the forest tracks between the shop, sorry, pub, and the camp site. He

had a terrible and prolonged attack of hiccups so he probably wouldn't have been able to breathe into a bag to test his claims of sobriety.

Ian M joined us just for the social evening and we had a few games of Mølky (Finnish skittles) combined with a few rounds of RCC banter which lasted easily till bed time.

Jake, Lisa and Charlie had better things to do on Sunday, and Mike had the camp to look after but the rest of us had a gentle sea kayak paddle across the Harbour to Holes Bay, then back via Poole Quay for an ice cream. One of the highlights was passing Poole Quay just as the Stavros S Niarchos, a two masted square rigged training ship, slipped her mooring and motored out with a Scottish piper high on the foremast. Lovely!

We went back to the campsite a bit too early and had to wait for the tide, but otherwise it was a happy day out, with only a couple of light showers that didn't even warrant getting the cag on. Well, the others already had theirs on of course....

It was another great weekend and thanks for organising it Nichola. Perhaps a few more will join us next time? Mike proved again that you don't have to be a paddler to enjoy an RCC weekend trip

Barry D

YOUTH FREESTYLE SUCCESS

On a warm and sunny Sunday in May I took my son Jake (17), Harris Hardern (13) who is also an RCC member, and another friend of theirs, Tom (15) to one of the four youth freestyle events that the BCU hold each year. Jake had competed a couple of times before and had a great time. The events are well organised by a great group of enthusiasts, with the emphasis very much on making sure that everyone has plenty of opportunities for fun. I don't have many good things to say for the BCU, but I'm really impressed with these events.

This one was at the Nene Whitewater Centre, which is an artificial pumped course with a variety of rapids and small drops, in Northampton. The organisers have become aware that the handful of sponsored paddlers kept walking away with all the prizes so this year they've separated them into their own group, leaving the others to compete in three boys' age groups, 13 & under, 15 & under and 18 & under, and another group for girls.



After registration the morning was free for all to practice, then the competitions were held, with different age categories on the two main features of the course. Each paddler had two runs, just 30 then 45 seconds, to pull off as many different moves as they could. Each has a score, ranging from 5 points

for a roll in the hole, to 150 points or more for something you have to watch in slow motion to appreciate.

As someone who doesn't get involved in freestyle it's hard to understand all that's going on, or to distinguish between Splitwheels and Godzillas, or between McNastys and Phonix Monkeys, but the good guys are impressive to watch, and it's inspiring to see so many kids having a go.

There were 59 paddlers, only 6 of them sponsored, but most of them paddling expensive Jackson kayaks.

Jacksons had a load of Demo boats there of course, so Jake and Tom couldn't resist a run down the course in a double and had a great time in it. Unfortunately two of the sponsored lads subsequently broached it across one of the narrow drops and it folded in half. An expensive day for the agent, and I know he was concerned about it because he'd given Jake and Tom a thorough warning about the danger of paddling it on such a restricted, narrow course.



After the freestyle everyone joined in another competition, in teams, swimming to retrieve balls from the stopper and wave train below the main drop. Brilliant fun and a great way to help the kids gain confidence in the water.

At prize giving time we waited patiently as the first 3 in each category were called up to pick a prize from an assortment of kit spread on the ground, then they announced "First place in the under 18's – Jake Deakin" I think Jake was as surprised as I was. Harris and Tom put in good performances too and finished in the middle of their categories.

In fact Jake's points were equivalent to fourth place in the sponsored paddlers group. We'll have to wait for the next event to find out how repeatable it might be. As I write this he's out practicing on the Avon at East Mills.

Barry D

THE POOLE HARBOUR PENGELLY TRIP

I was lucky enough to get an invite to join Poole Harbour Canoe Club on their white water weekend on the Dart in January.

We were staying at the Pengelly centre and most of us tipped up on Friday night and headed straight down to the Globe in Buckfastleigh. It was nice to catchup with old friends and meet new people.

Vic and Viv were running the trip, so it was a bit more organised than an RCC trip, there was even a briefing in the morning. Definitely not like RCC.



Triple Drop

We put in at the Butterfly Farm, at least we tried to. The gate under the bridge was locked, so we merrily started to pass over boats and gear. A very irate man informed us that we were definitely not allowed to use the put in. Trouble was more than half of us had already got our gear over and the other half were busy doing the same. The poor bloke did his best to stop us but with 20 plus paddlers all keen to get on the water he had no chance, it was a bit like herding cats!!

His day was not a complete loss though, as he managed to stop and turn away another canoe club that turned up a few minutes later.

Most of us portaged the weir, then we separated into 2 groups. Ian Mercer took our group and we headed on. There was lots of excellent coaching and the river levels were good. We didn't manage to meet up with Vic's group for lunch, so made our own way to Totnes.



Vics boat making a break for freedom after being lined down the Big Weir at Buckfastleigh Abbey

It was getting pretty late in the day and the January cold was beginning to be felt, so we made a push for Steamer Quay. The other group had an incident at Totnes wier and didn't make it back till it was nearly dark.

A jolly evening was spent at the Globe and we all turned in tired and happy.

The next day we paddled the loop. Again the levels were good although it was a pretty cold day.

I met up with a rock on my way down the Boulder garden before Lovers leap. Jake Wiltshire said all he saw was my canoe go nearly vertical and me swimming. My canoe carried on happily without me and ended up pinned with the hull facing upstream. I took a photo of it while I waited for Captain Worth to stop laughing at me and give me a lift down to her. (skid plates still intact at this point)



my boat at lover leap

There were a lot of swimmers at Triple Drop as it caught a lot of paddlers out. At the Spin Dryer I felt a real bang on the rear of the boat as I dropped down the last small ledge. I noticed that I had lost part of my skid plate when I got out. Ian M said that he had holed his boat at that same spot some time back.



Jake W, early bath

We headed for the get out by the old Happy Chef (no longer there) but a few of the lads decided to sink each other before getting out and the battle began, fortunately, I was well clear by then.

It had been a great weekend, many thanks to Vic and Viv and to Ian M for the coaching and to our Chairman for a rescue from yet another swim that he won't let me forget about.

Dot T